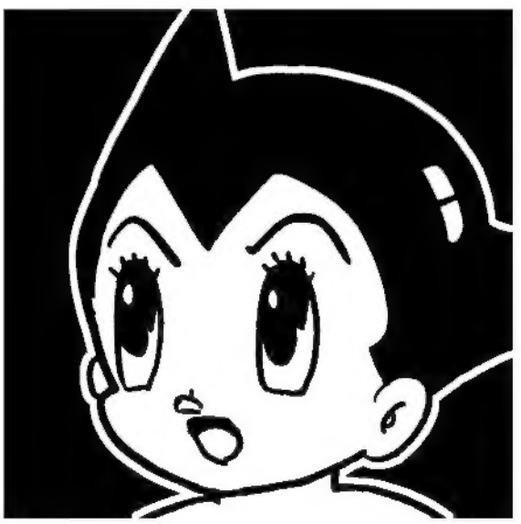
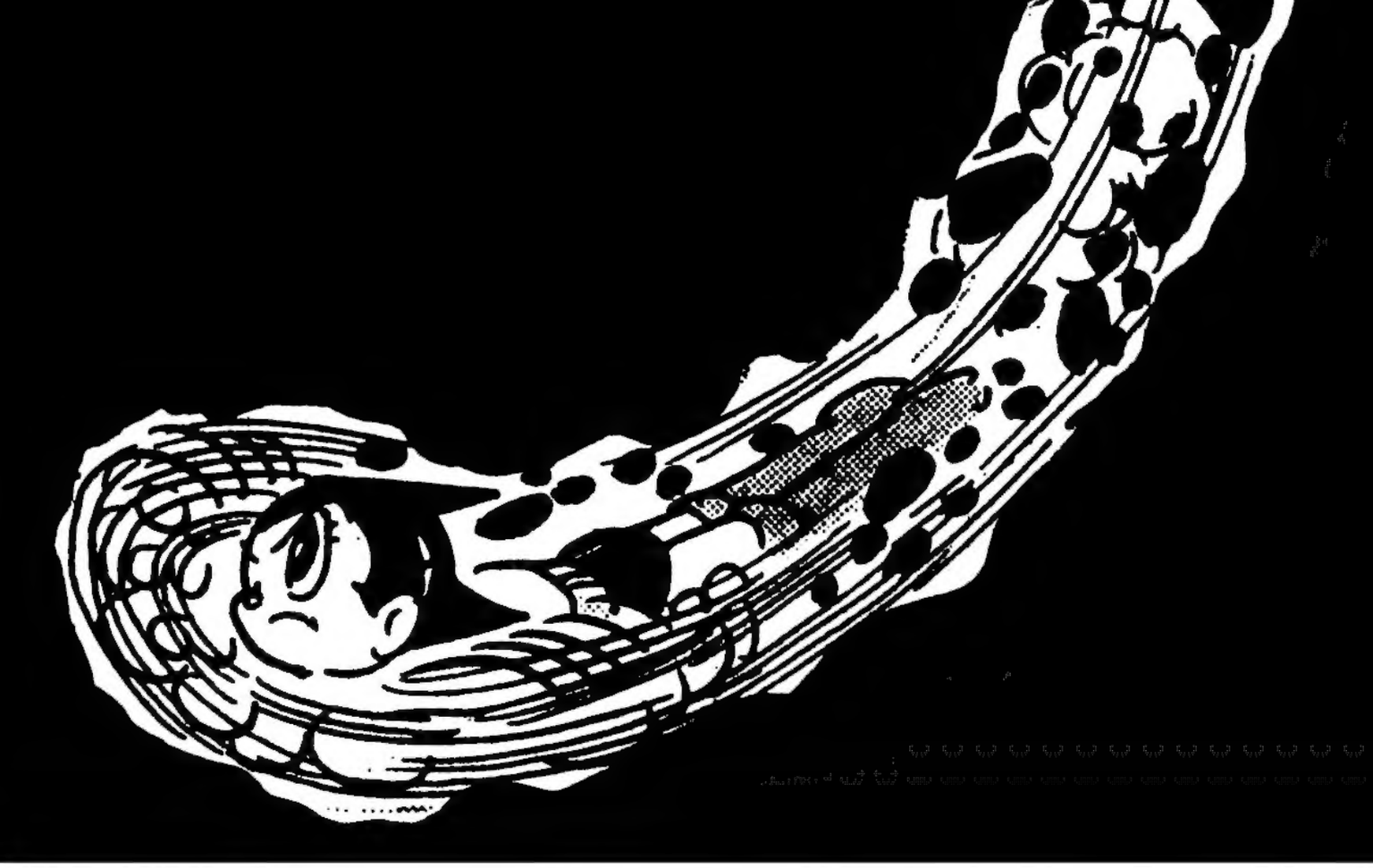
12
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY®





A NOTE TO READERS.....5

ROBOIDS.....7

THE EYES OF CHRIST.....131

YOUTH GAS.....159

BROADCASTS FROM
OUTER SPACE.....199

Table of Contents

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ASTRO BOY® VOLUME 12

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A NOTE TO Readers

Many non-Japanese, including people from Africa and Southeast Asia, appear in Osamu Tezuka's works. Sometimes these people are depicted very differently from the way they actually are today, in a manner that exaggerates a time long past or shows them to be from extremely undeveloped lands. Some feel that such images contribute to racial discrimination, especially against people of African descent. This was never Osamu Tezuka's intent, but we believe that as long as there are people who feel insulted or demeaned by these depictions, we must not ignore their feelings.

We are against discrimination, in all its forms, and intend to continue to work for its elimination. Nonetheless, we do not believe it would be proper to revise these works. Tezuka is no longer with us, and we cannot erase what he has done, and to alter his work would only violate his rights as a creator. More importantly, stopping publication or changing the content of his work would do little to solve the problems of discrimination that exist in the world.

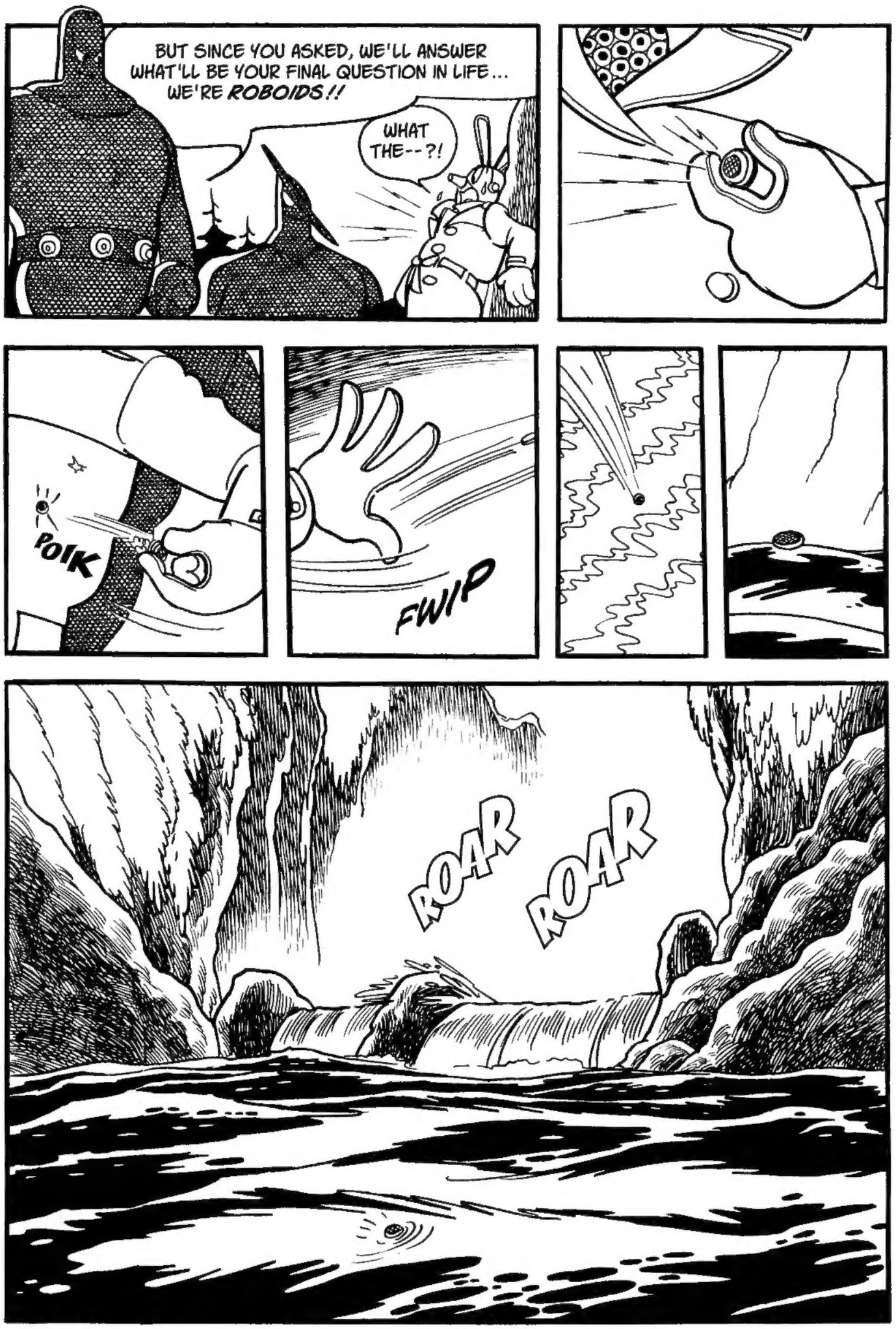
We are presenting Osamu Tezuka's work as it was originally created, without changes. We do this because we believe it is also important to promote the underlying themes in his work, such as love for mankind and the sanctity of life. We hope that when you, the reader, encounter this work, you will keep in mind the differences in attitudes, then and now, toward discrimination, and that this will contribute to an even greater awareness of such problems.

— Tezuka Productions and Dark Horse Comics

ROBOIDS

First serialized from January to May 1965
in *Shonen* magazine.

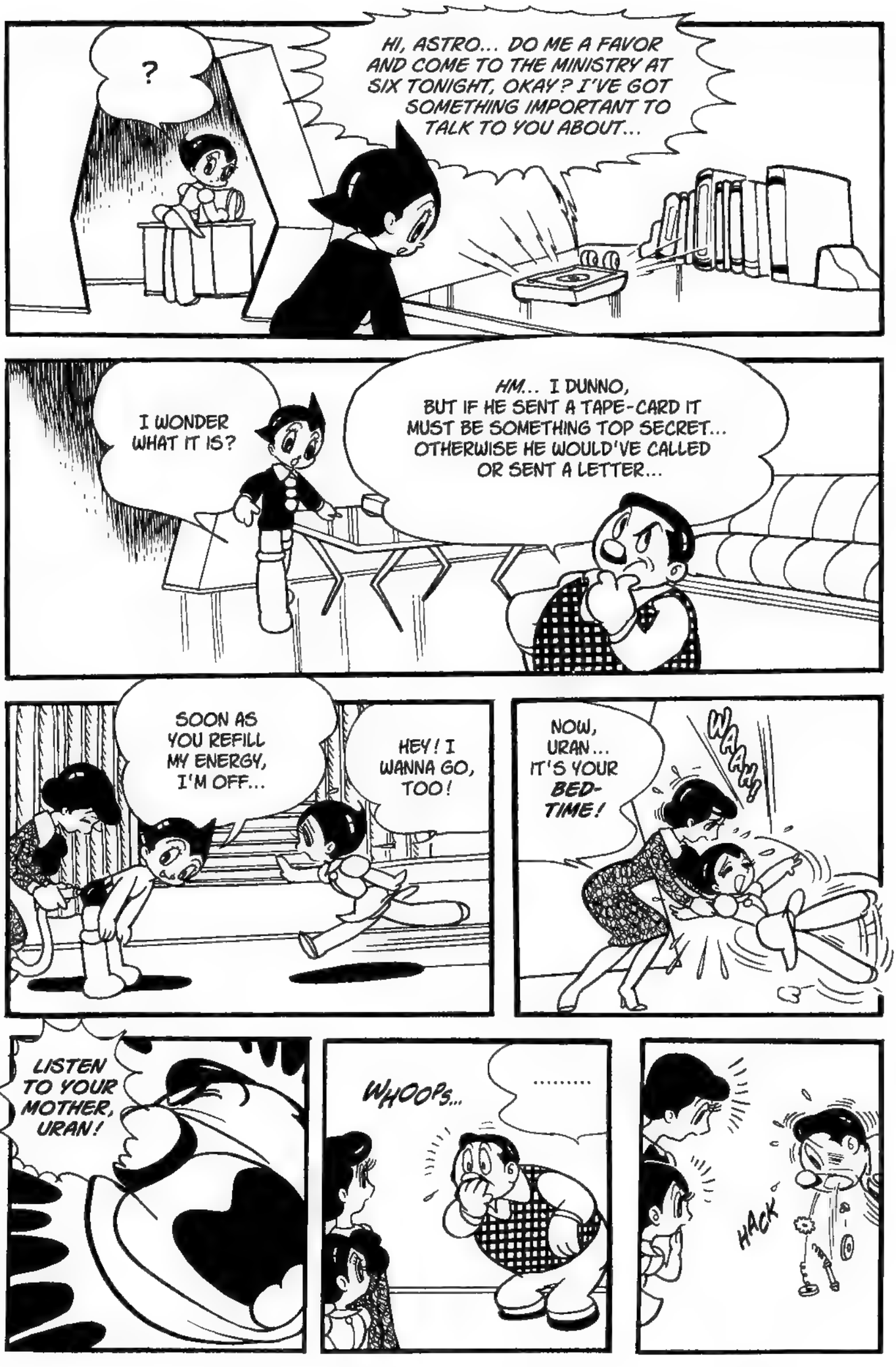
SWISH SWISH
WHA?
WH-WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
NOT YOUR LUCKY DAY, IS IT, MR. ROBOT?

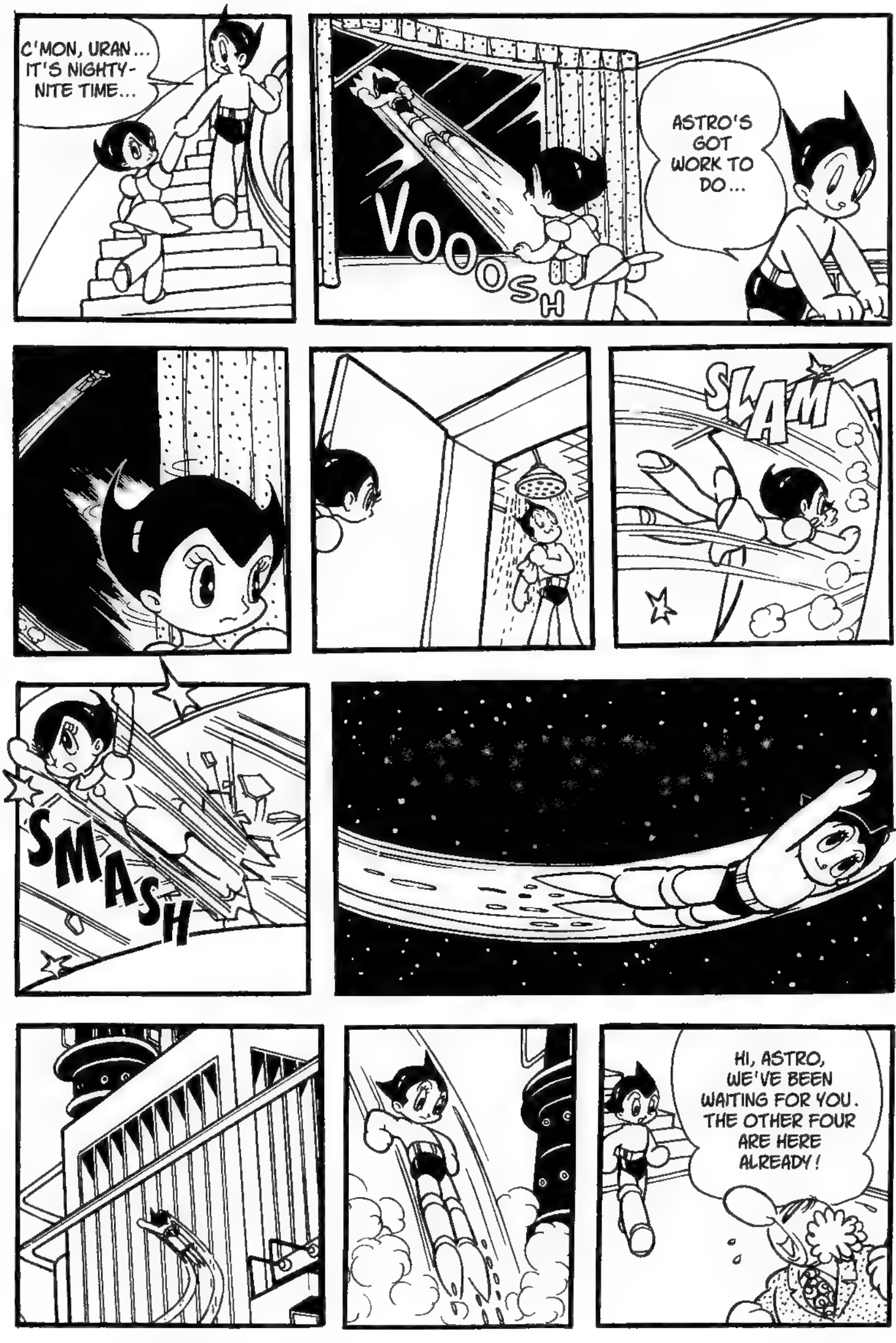

BUT SINCE YOU ASKED, WE'LL ANSWER WHAT'LL BE YOUR FINAL QUESTION IN LIFE... WE'RE ROBOIDS!!
WHAT THE--?!
POIK
FWIP
ROAR
ROAR

TRA LA
TRA LA TRA
LA LA...
TRA LA TRA LA
TRA LA LA...
STAY OFF
THE GRASS
WHA?!
HELLO,
LITTLE
URAN...
WHY DON'T
YOU COME
WITH
ME...?
B-BUT
I DON'T
KNOW YOU,
LADY...
COME WITH
ME AND YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND...
I'M A ROBOT,
TOO, SO YOU
CAN TRUST
ME...
THIS
WAY...
EEEK!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
EEEK!!

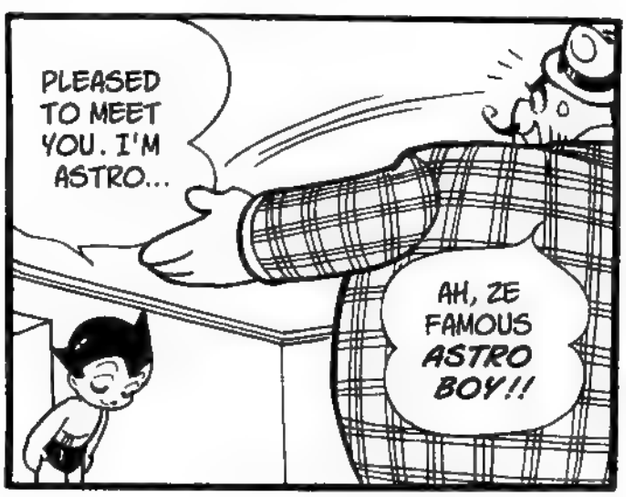
THAT WAS EASY...
GOOD. NOW ASSUME HER FORM...
HOW'S THIS?
WHAT ABOUT THE KID?
NO SENSE TAKING HER WITH US...
THERE! THAT'LL DO...
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
DO YOUR JOB WELL...
DON'T WORRY ...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, URAN...
HEY, WHY THE FROWN?
.....
.....
LET'S GO HOME... WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU ANGRY?
NO... I'M FINE...
WE'RE HOME!
YAY!!
WELCOME BACK, ASTRO... YOU'VE GOT A TAPE-CARD FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...
HM... IT'S FROM PROFESSOR OCHANO-MIZU...


?
HI, ASTRO... DO ME A FAVOR AND COME TO THE MINISTRY AT SIX TONIGHT, OKAY? I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
I WONDER WHAT IT IS?
HM... I DUNNO, BUT IF HE SENT A TAPE-CARD IT MUST BE SOMETHING TOP SECRET... OTHERWISE HE WOULD'VE CALLED OR SENT A LETTER...
SOON AS YOU REFILL MY ENERGY, I'M OFF...
HEY! I WANNA GO, TOO!
NOW, URAN... IT'S YOUR BED-TIME!
WAAAH
LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER, URAN!
WHOOPS...
.....
HACK


C'MON, URAN... IT'S NIGHTY-NITE TIME...
VOOOSH
ASTRO'S GOT WORK TO DO...
SLAM
SMASH
HI, ASTRO, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THE OTHER FOUR ARE HERE ALREADY!

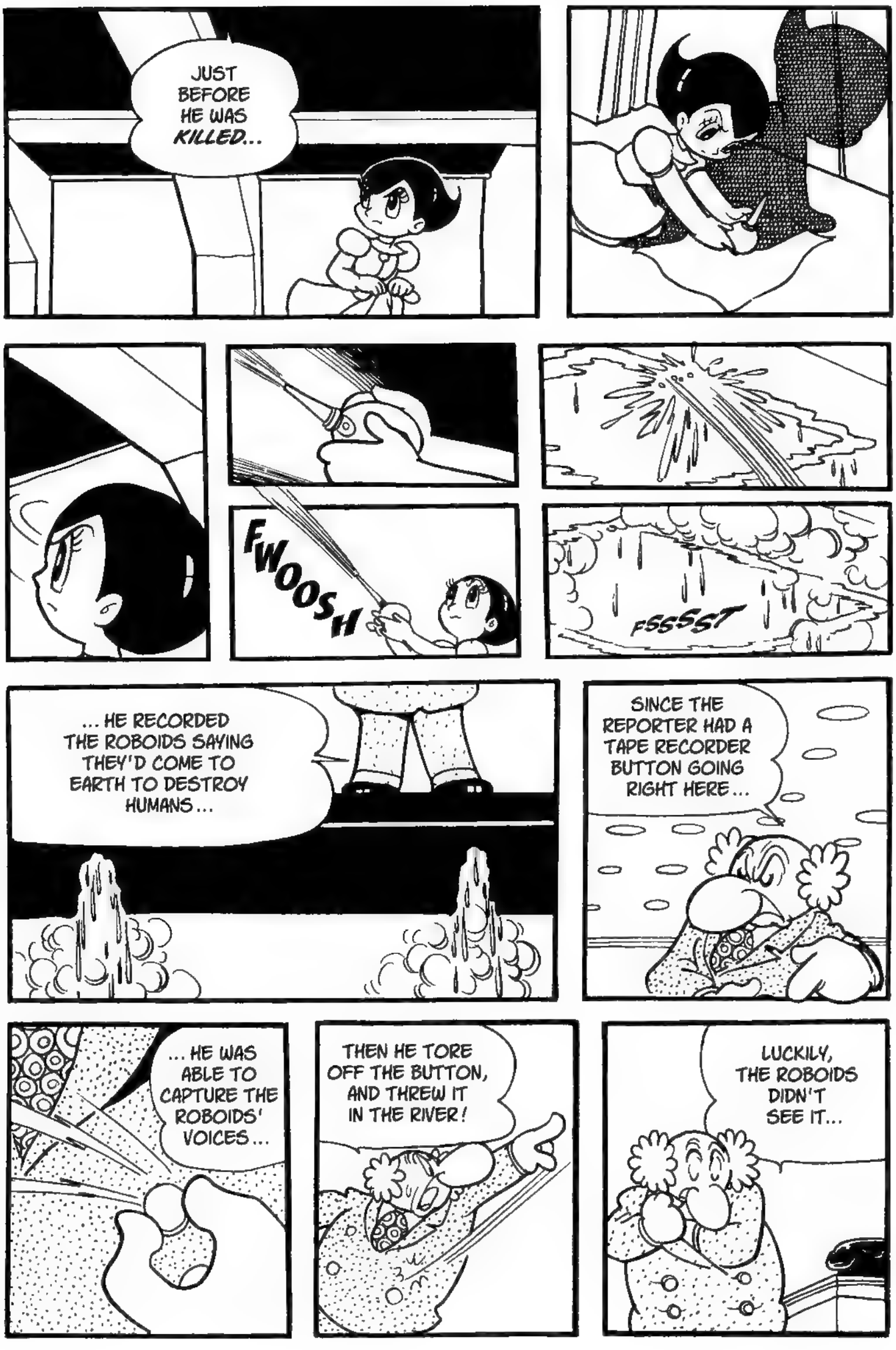
FROM THE LEFT ARE, ZAIR-A, BOX, DOP 00, AND CYRANO. THEY'RE TOP SECRET AGENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

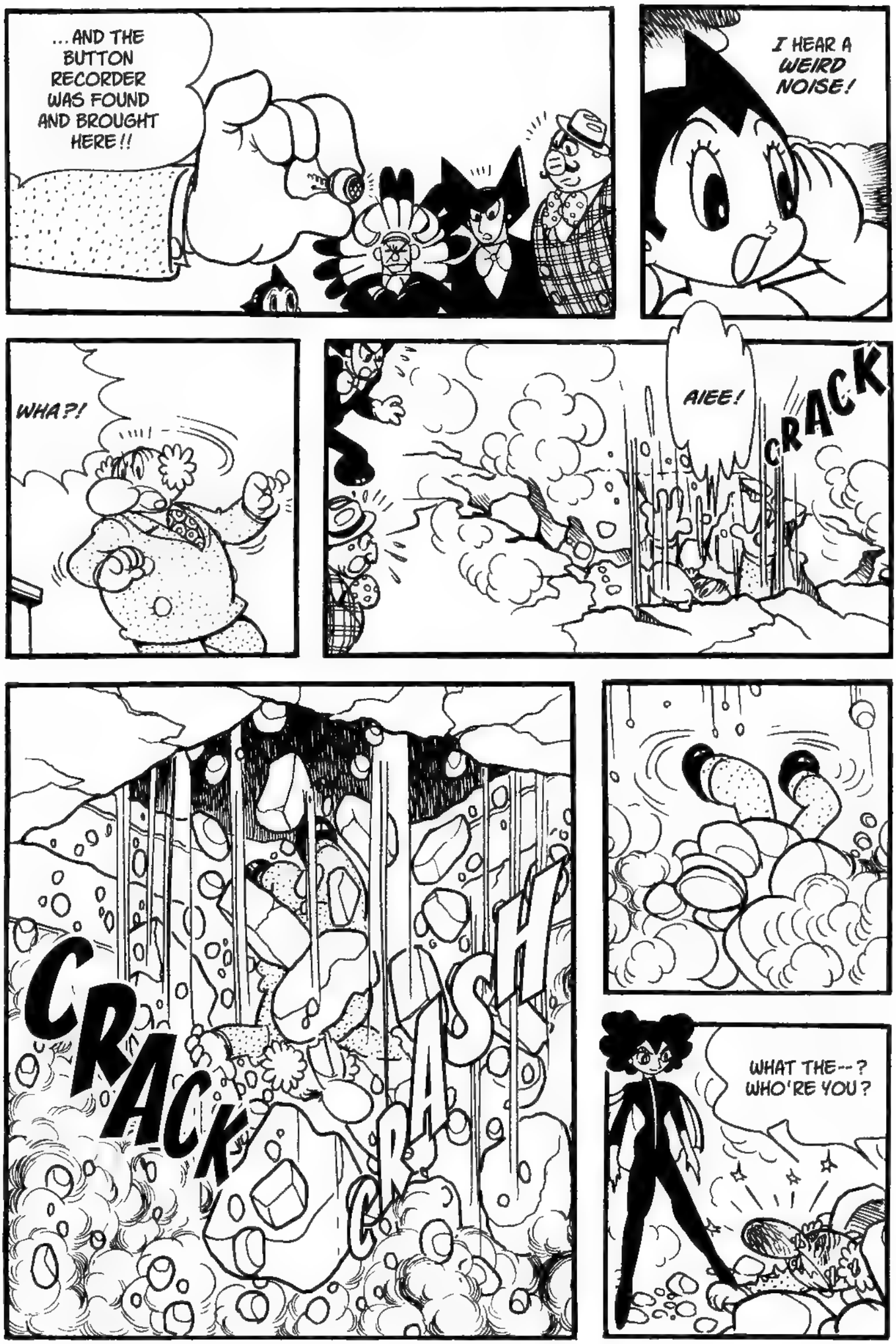

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M ASTRO...
AH, ZE FAMOUS ASTRO BOY!!

NICE TA MEET YOU, BOX...
I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU...

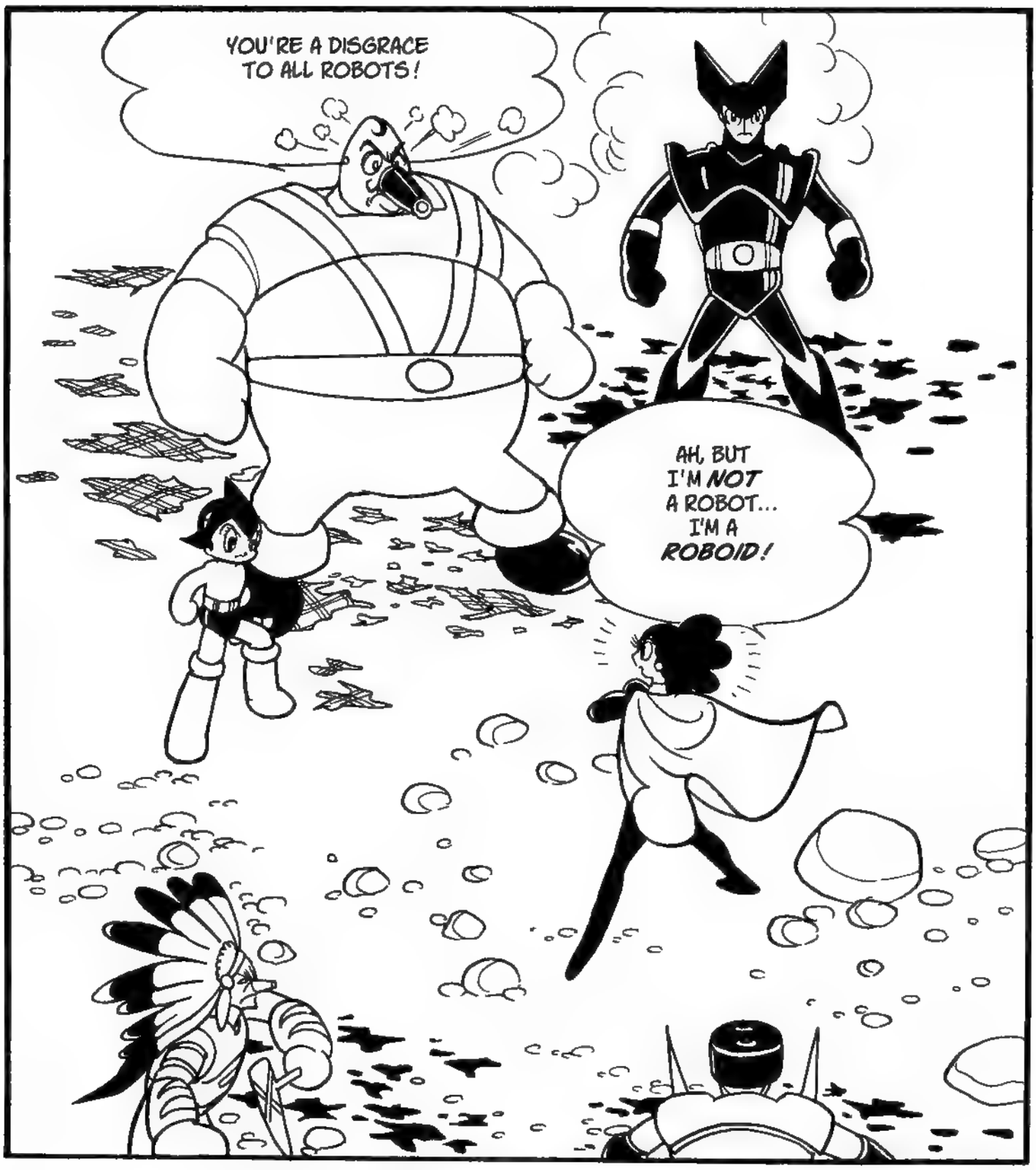
OKAY, EVERYBODY, LISTEN UP...
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY IS TOP SECRET, OKAY?
UM... IS MY BROTHER ASTRO HERE? I BROUGHT SOMETHING HE FORGOT...
ASTRO BOY? SURE, HE'S IN THE SECRET MEETING ROOM THREE FLOORS DOWN...
BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN UNTIL THEY FINISH THEIR MEETING!
NAW, THEY'LL LET ME IN...
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, SOMEONE OR SOMETHING OUT THERE HAS IT IN FOR THE HUMAN RACE...
FOR THE HUMAN RACE?
THIS ANOTHER ALIEN CASE?
NO. THIS TIME WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT IS!
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THEY'RE USING THE NAME "ROBOID."

ROBOID ?!
WHAT'S A ROBOID??
WELL, ANDROIDS ARE LIKE ASTRO IN THAT THEY LOOK LIKE HUMANS, BUT THEY'RE ROBOTS, RIGHT? ROBOIDS LOOK LIKE ROBOTS, BUT THEY'RE NOT ROBOTS!
SO THEY'RE FAKE ROBOTS?
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YES... BUT THIS IS MUCH SCARIER.... WE KNOW THERE ARE FIVE ROBOIDS INVOLVED, AND WE KNOW THEY'VE INFILTRATED THE ROBOT POPULATION. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT ROBOT FORM THEY'VE ASSUMED. AND THEY'RE APPARENTLY PLANNING TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!!
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS, PROFESSOR?
A ROBOT FRIEND OF MINE MET A ROBOID AND HEARD IT STRAIGHT FROM HIM...
HE HAD A MINI-TAPE RECORDER IN A BUTTON ON HIS COAT...
HE WAS A NEWSPAPER REPORTER...

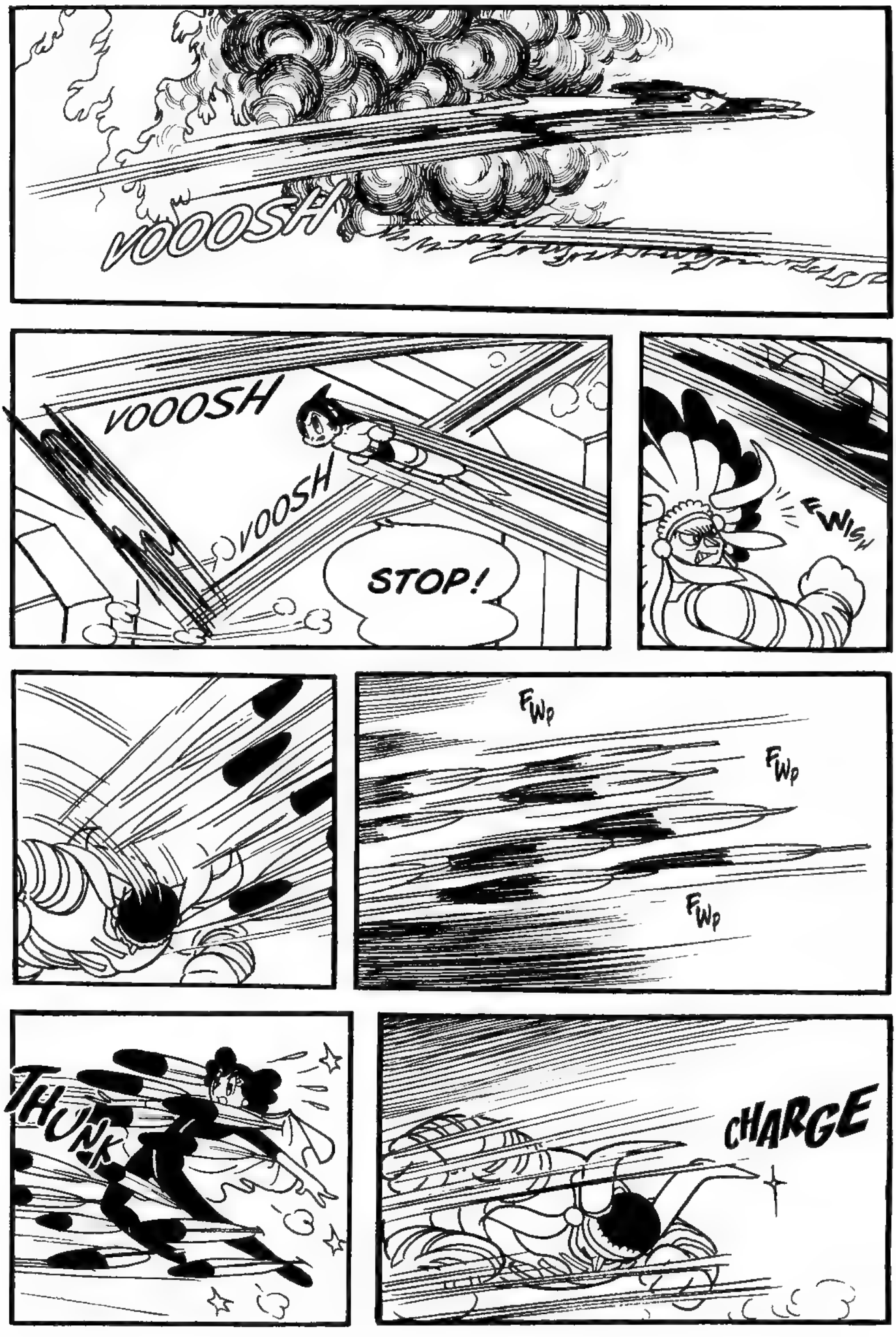

JUST BEFORE HE WAS KILLED...
FWOOSH
FSSSST
... HE RECORDED THE ROBOIDS SAYING THEY'D COME TO EARTH TO DESTROY HUMANS...
SINCE THE REPORTER HAD A TAPE RECORDER BUTTON GOING RIGHT HERE...
... HE WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE THE ROBOIDS' VOICES...
THEN HE TORE OFF THE BUTTON, AND THREW IT IN THE RIVER!
LUCKILY, THE ROBOIDS DIDN'T SEE IT...


...AND THE BUTTON RECORDER WAS FOUND AND BROUGHT HERE!!
I HEAR A WEIRD NOISE!
WHA?!
AIEE!
CRACK
CRACK
CRASH
CRASH
WHAT THE--? WHO'RE YOU?

I'M HERE FOR THE BUTTON-RECORDER...
NO!!
GIVE IT TO ME AND I'M GONE...
FWIP


YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO ALL ROBOTS!
AH, BUT I'M *NOT* A ROBOT... I'M A *ROBOID!*

TAKE *THIS*, THEN!
FWOOOSH


VOOOSH
VOOOSH
VOOOSH
STOP!
FWISH
FWP
FWP
FWP
THUNK
CHARGE

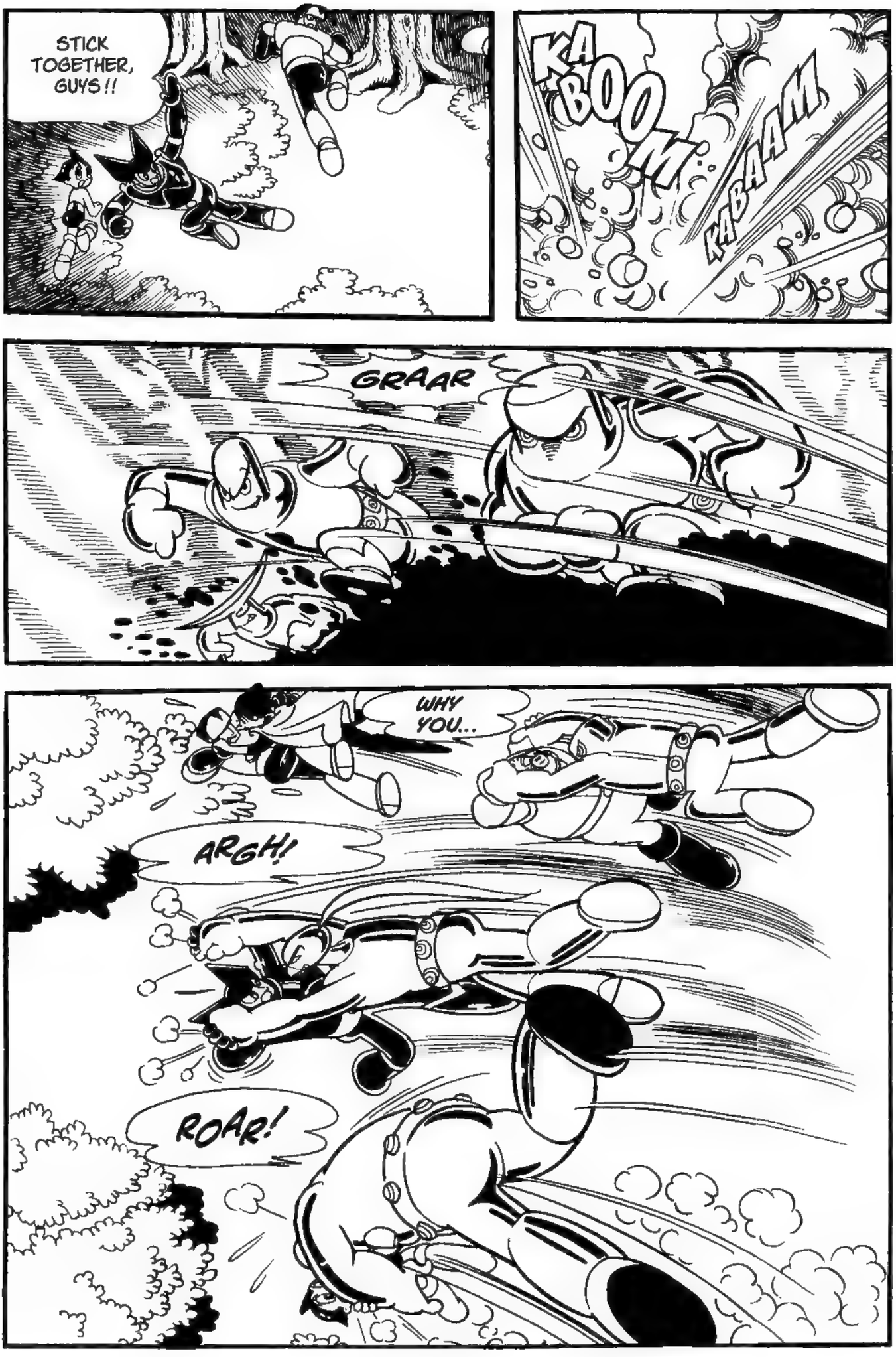
AIEE!
FSSSH
FSSSH
SHE GOT AWAY!
BLAST IT! I CAN'T FIND HER!!!
NO LUCK, ASTRO?
SHE VANISHED...
THAT WAS QUITE A TRICK...
SHE HAD A LOT OF NERVE TO TRY AND SNEAK INTO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!
SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* HAPPENED, MEN...
SHE STOLE THE ONLY EVIDENCE WE HAD OF THE EXISTENCE OF ROBOIDS...

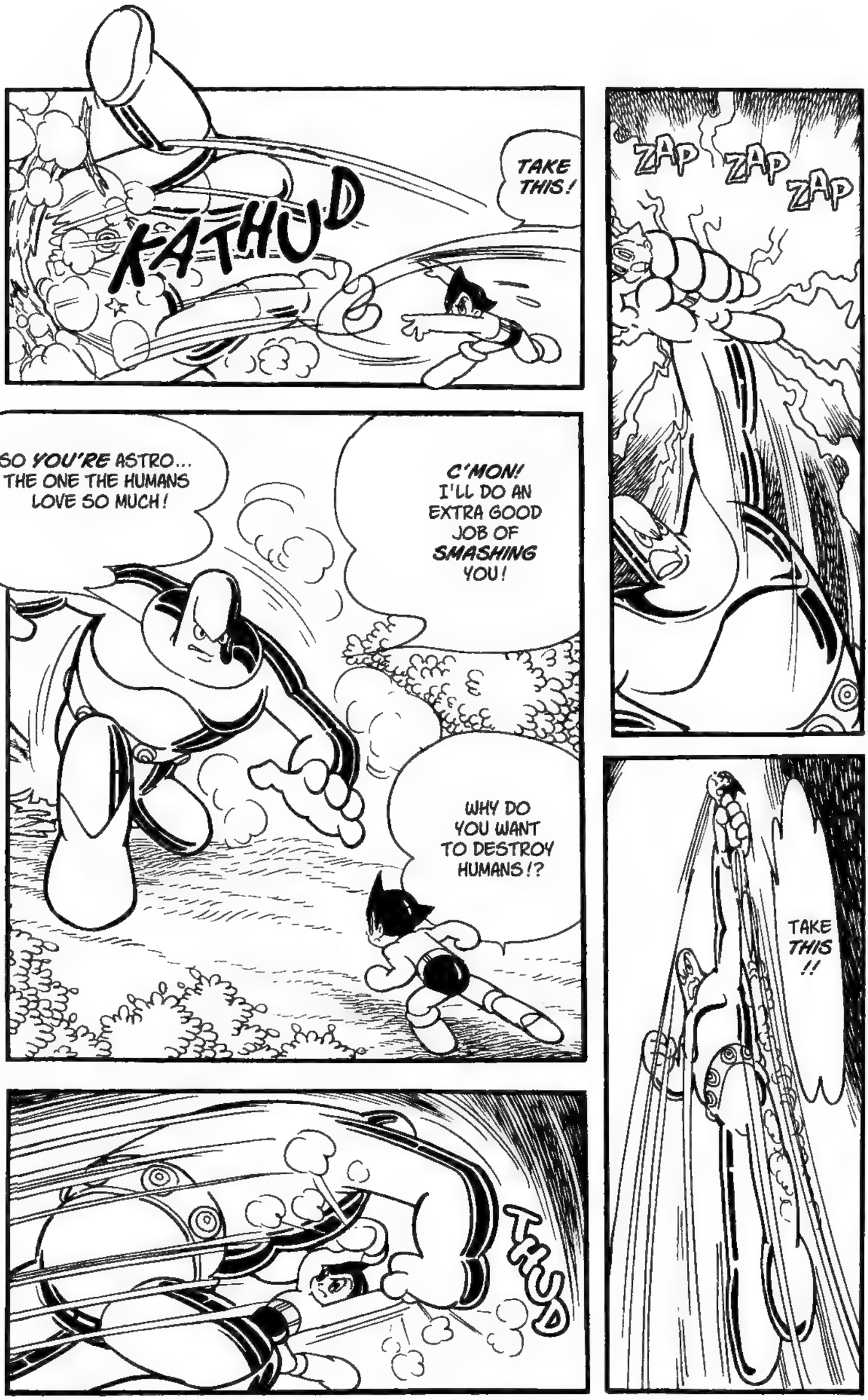
THIS MEANS THE FIVE OF US ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THE ROBOIDS!
AND NOBODY ELSE'LL BELIEVE US!
WHAT'S UP, BOX?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, GENTS...
WOW... WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A SPECIAL CHEMICAL I HAD THAT GLOWS...
IT TAKES FIVE MINUTES FOR IT TO BECOME VISIBLE...
I THREW SOME ON THE SOLES OF THE ROBOID'S FEET...
... SO SHE SHOULD LEAVE GLOWING TRACKS...
WAY TA GO, BOX! NO WONDER YOU WORK FOR SCOTLAND YARD!
WE JUST FOLLOW THE TRACKS LIKE THIS, SEE?

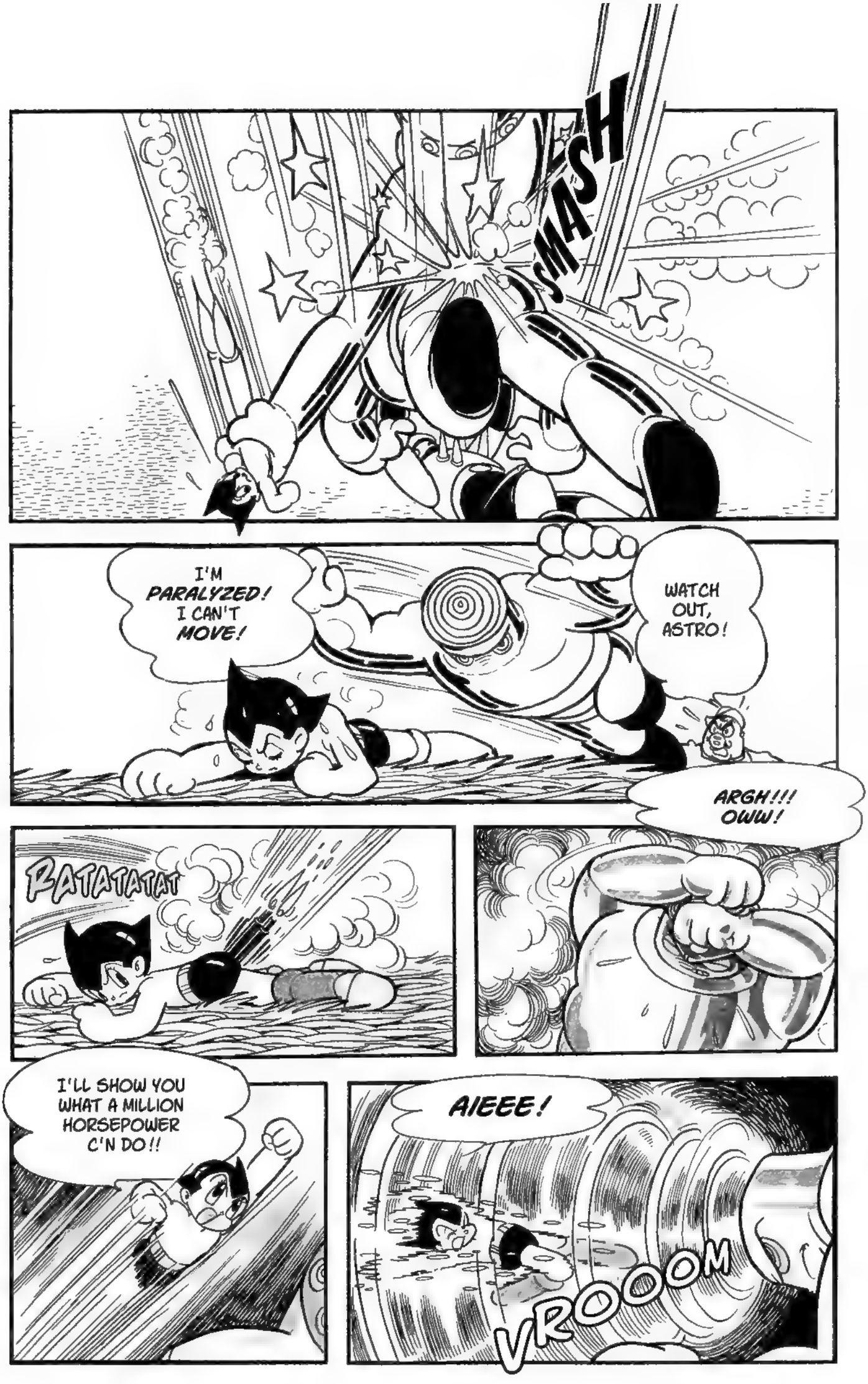
SHE WENT OUT THE FRONT DOOR HERE...
WE'VE GOT TO STAY ON HER TRAIL...
CYRANO, YOU AND ASTRO SEARCH FROM THE SKY...
WE'LL SEARCH ON THE GROUND...

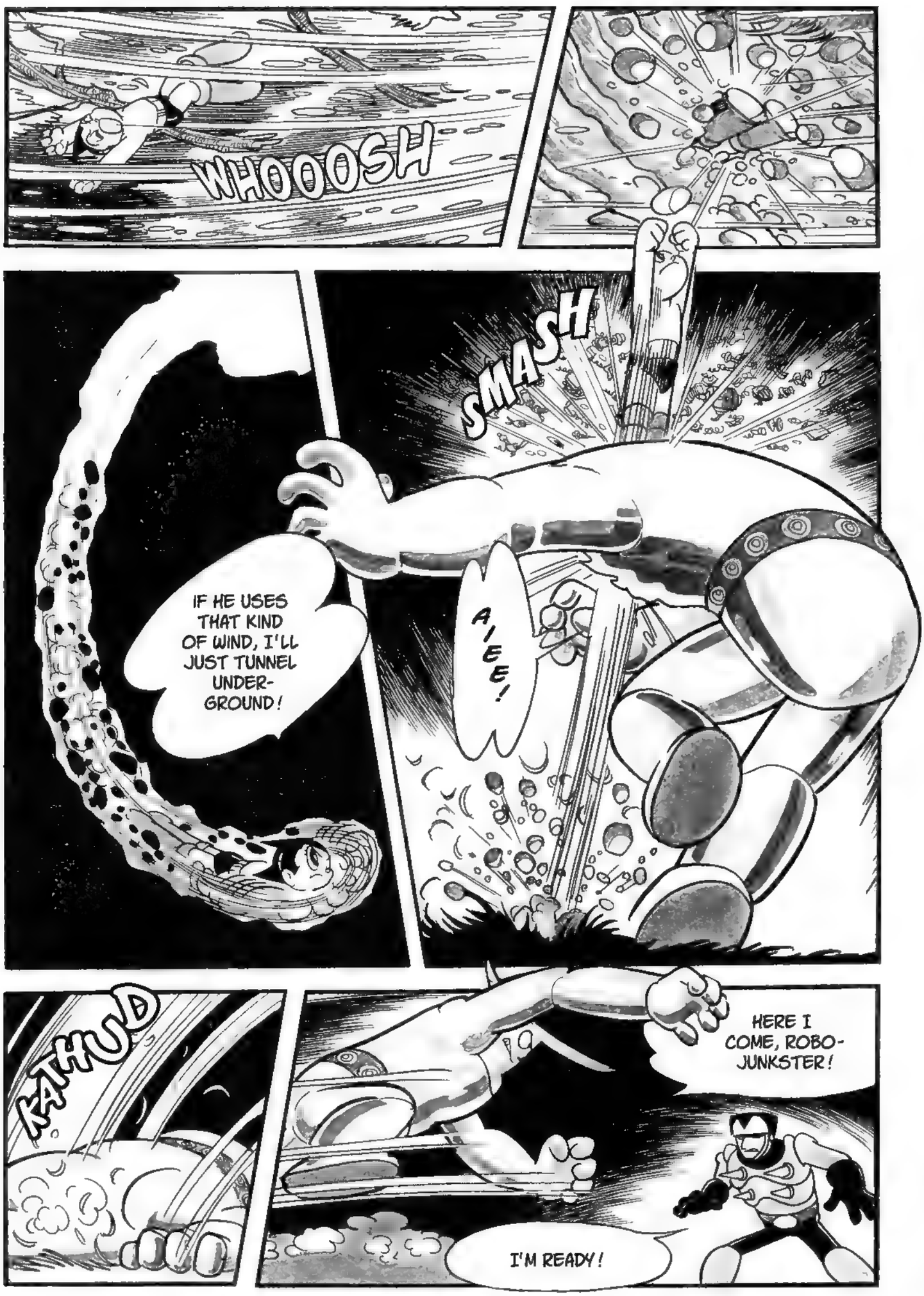
HERE'S THE TAPE-RECORDER BUTTON...
YOU MESSED UP, ROBOID 4!
WHAT?!
CHECK THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET!!
WE'VE GOT FIVE ROBOT SECRET AGENTS ON OUR TAIL NOW, ONLY FIVE HUNDRED YARDS AWAY!
WANNA OFF 'EM?
WE'VE GOT TO. WE CAN'T LET THEM LIVE...
EACH OF US'LL HAVE TO TAKE ON ONE OF THEM...

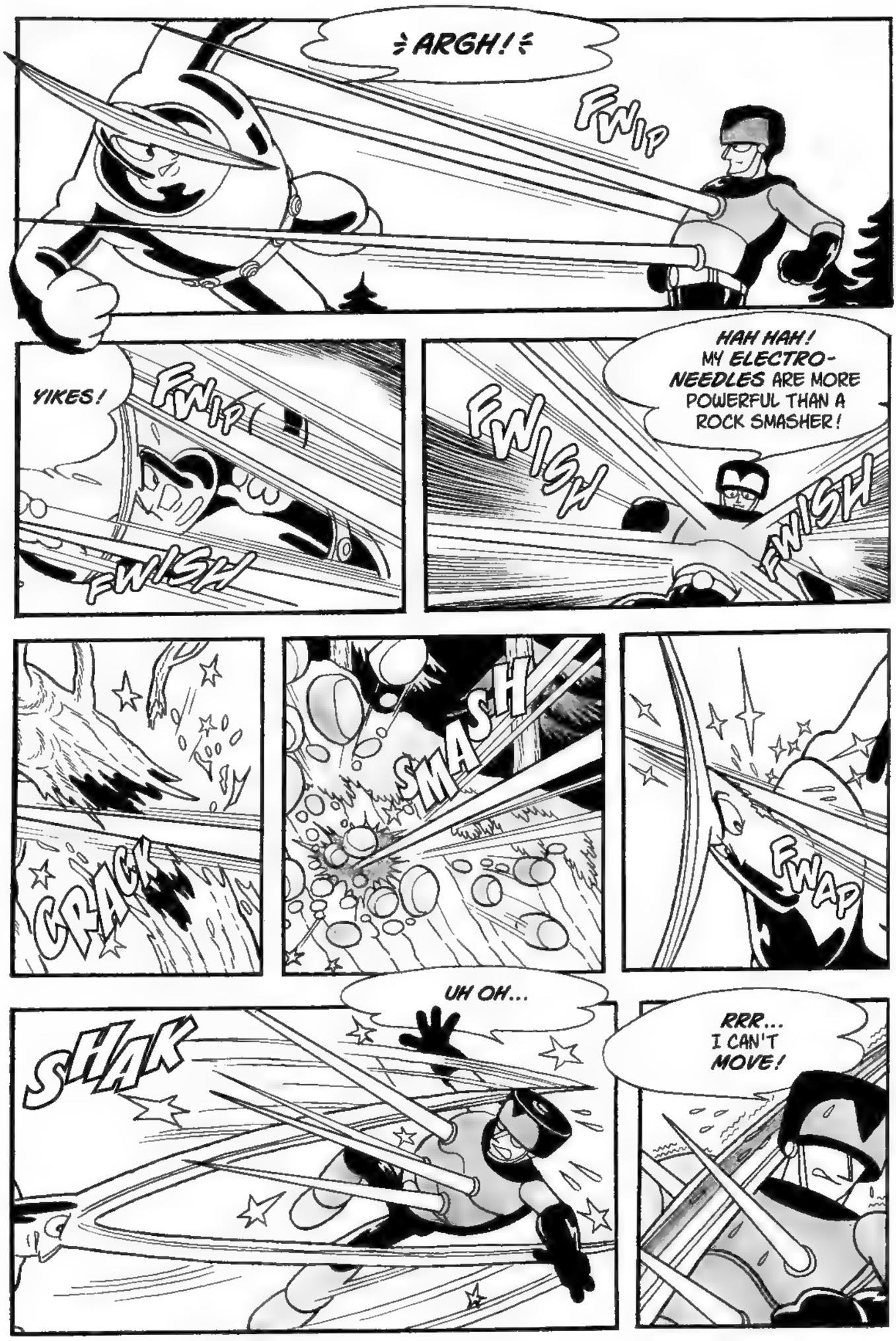
LOOK! THE TRAIL RUNS OUT HERE...
THAT MEANS WE'RE REALLY CLOSE!
SHH...
I CAN TELL FROM THESE FOOTPRINTS THAT THERE'S FIVE OF EM.... THEY'RE BIG, TOO, MAYBE 300,000 HORSEPOWER...
LET'S CAPTURE 'EM ALL ALIVE, AND TURN 'EM OVER TO THE PROFESSOR...
KABOOM
BAM BAM BAM
SACRE BLEU!
HERE THEY COME !!

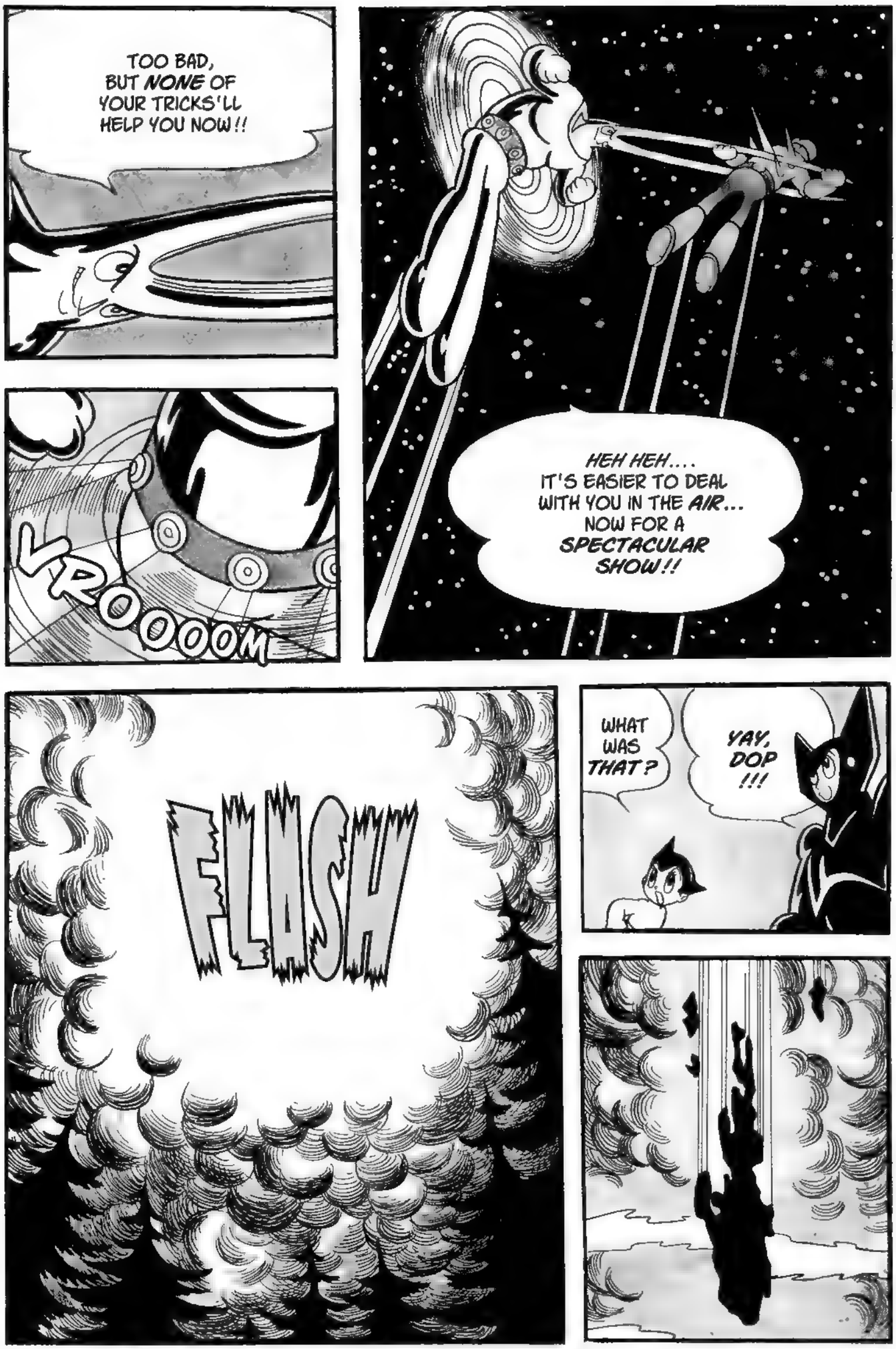

STICK TOGETHER, GUYS!!
KA BOOM!
KABAAM
GRAAR
WHY YOU...
ARGH!
ROAR!


KATHUD
TAKE THIS!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
SO YOU'RE ASTRO... THE ONE THE HUMANS LOVE SO MUCH!
C'MON! I'LL DO AN EXTRA GOOD JOB OF SMASHING YOU!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY HUMANS!?
TAKE THIS!!
THUD

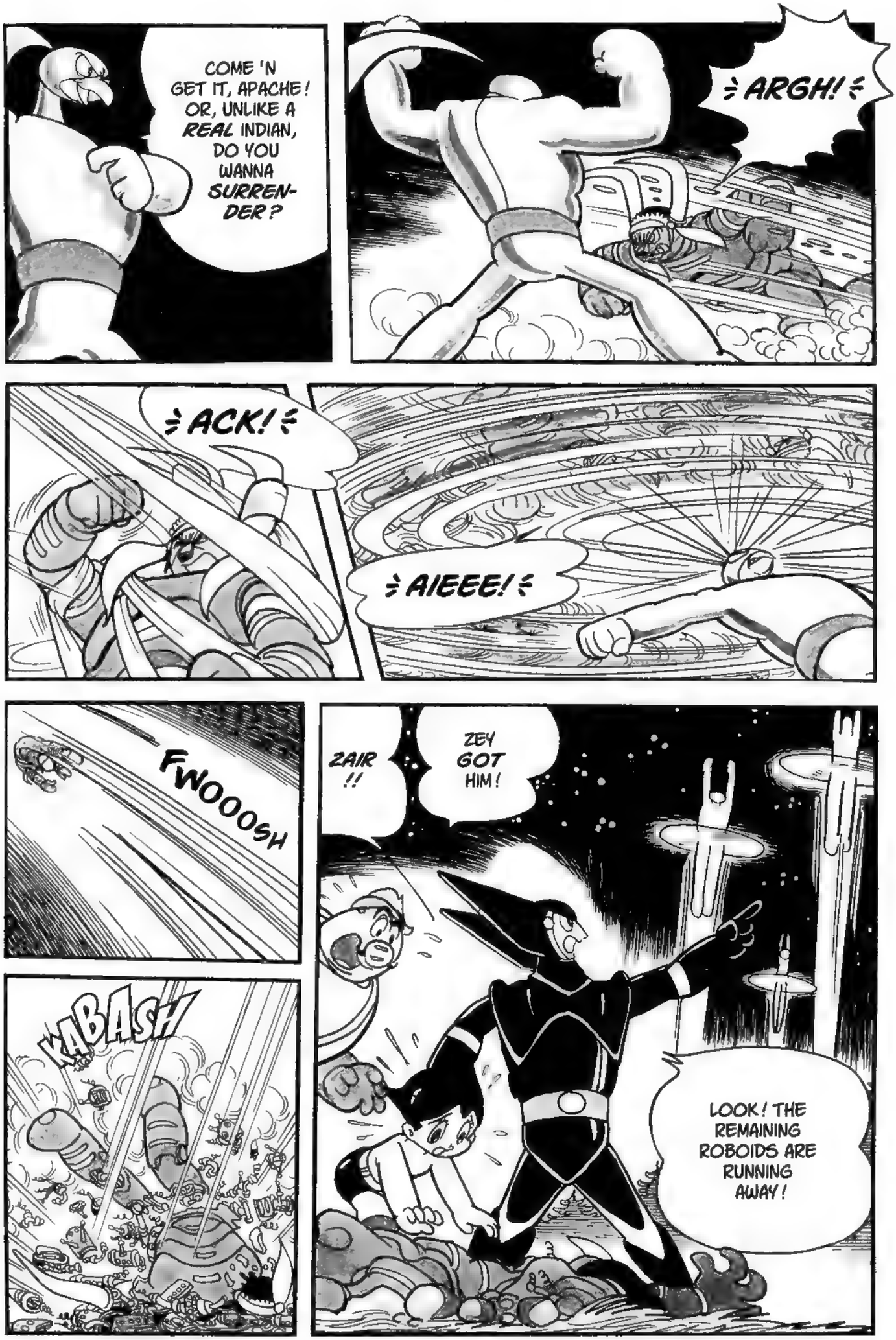

SMASH
I'M PARALYZED! I CAN'T MOVE!
WATCH OUT, ASTRO!
ARGH!!! OWW!
BATATATAT
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT A MILLION HORSEPOWER C'N DO!!
AIEEE!
VROOOOM


WHOOOSH
SMASH
IF HE USES THAT KIND OF WIND, I'LL JUST TUNNEL UNDER-GROUND!
AIEE!
KAHUD
HERE I COME, ROBO-JUNKSTER!
I'M READY!

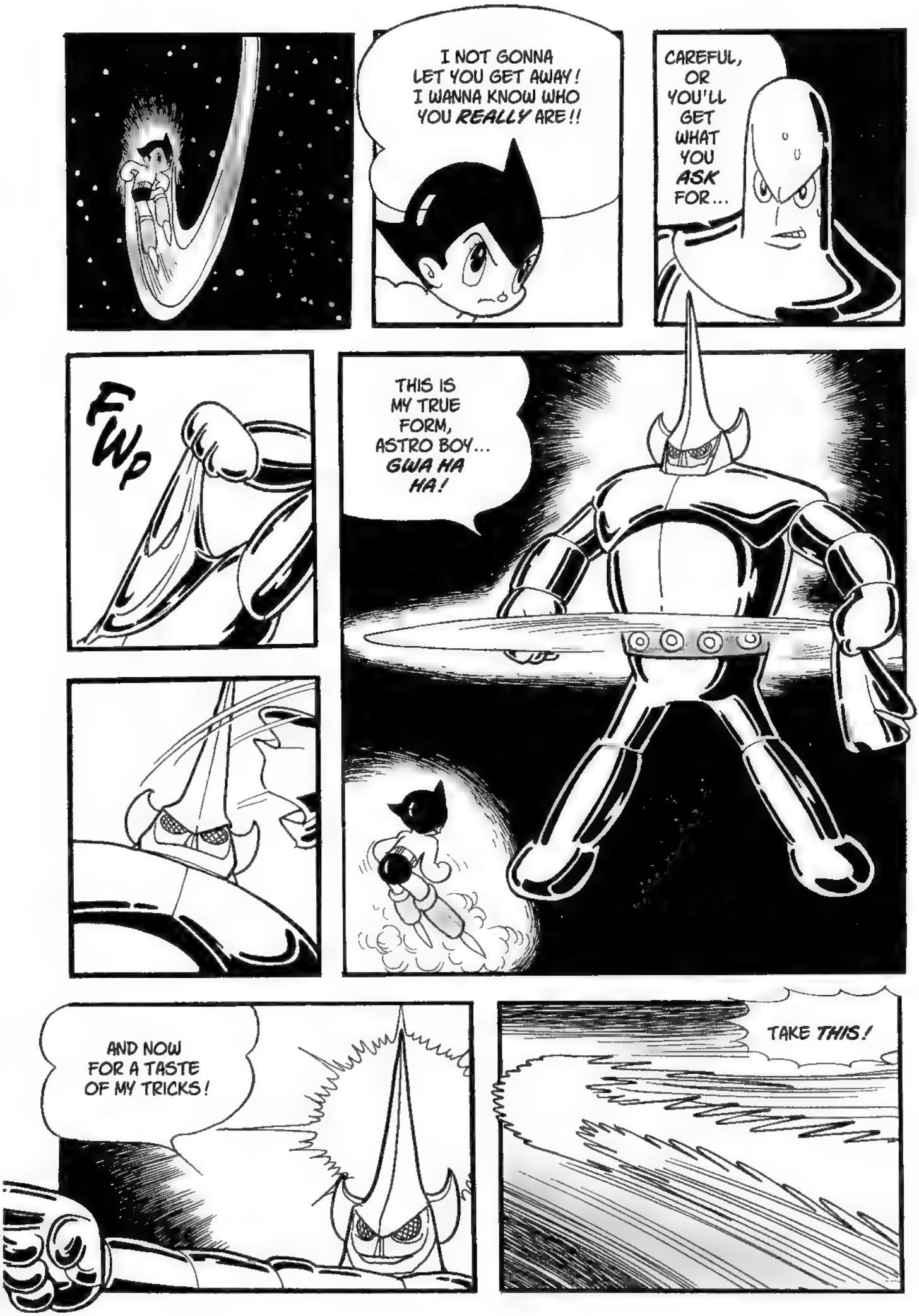

ARGH!
FWIP
YIKES!
FWIP
FWISH
HAH HAH! MY ELECTRO-NEEDLES ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN A ROCK SMASHER!
FWISH
FWISH
CRACK
SMASH
FWAP
UH OH...
SHAK
RRR... I CAN'T MOVE!

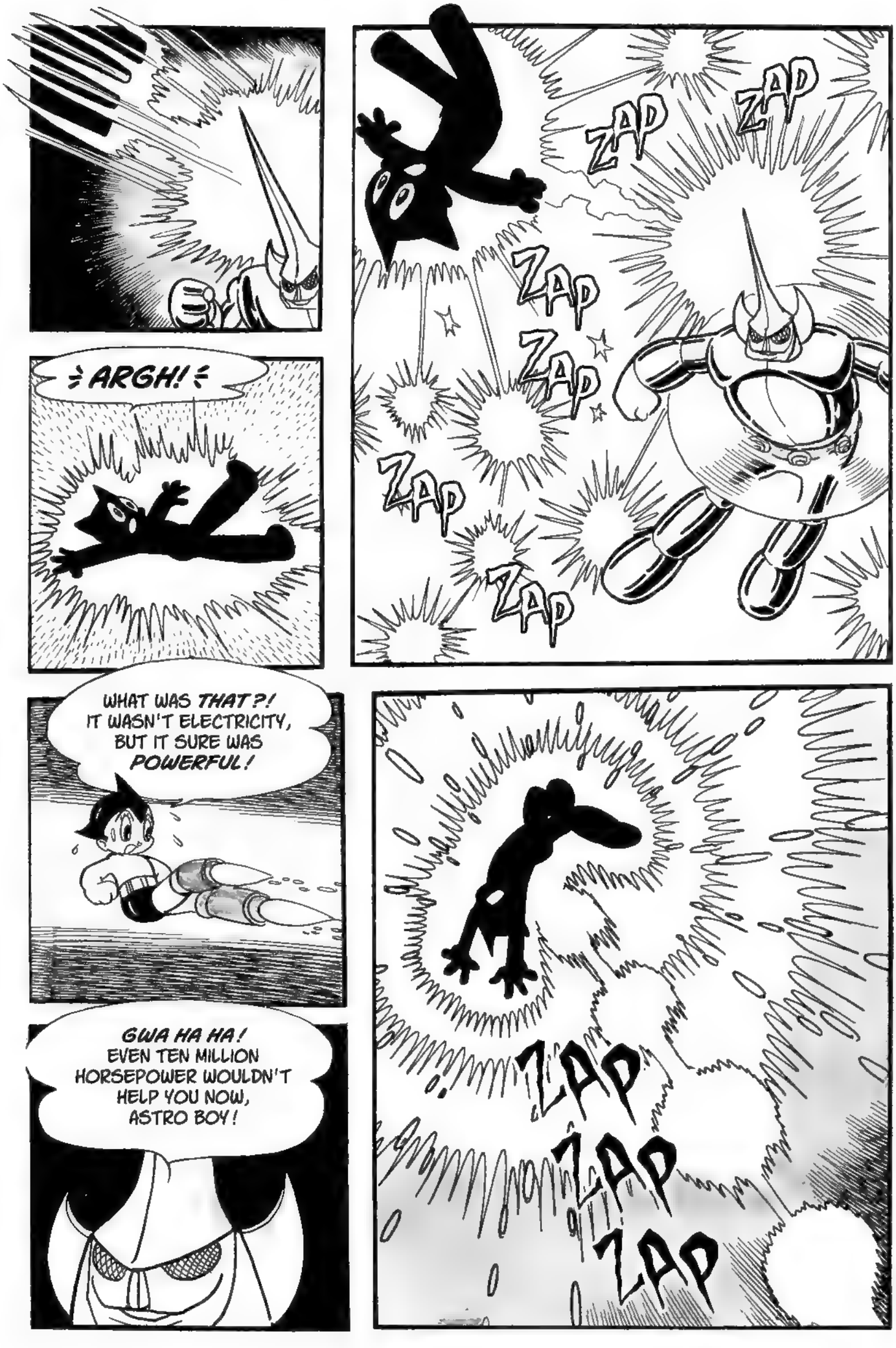

TOO BAD, BUT NONE OF YOUR TRICKS'LL HELP YOU NOW!!
HEH HEH.... IT'S EASIER TO DEAL WITH YOU IN THE AIR... NOW FOR A SPECTACULAR SHOW!!
VROOOOM
FLASH
WHAT WAS THAT?
YAY, DOP !!!

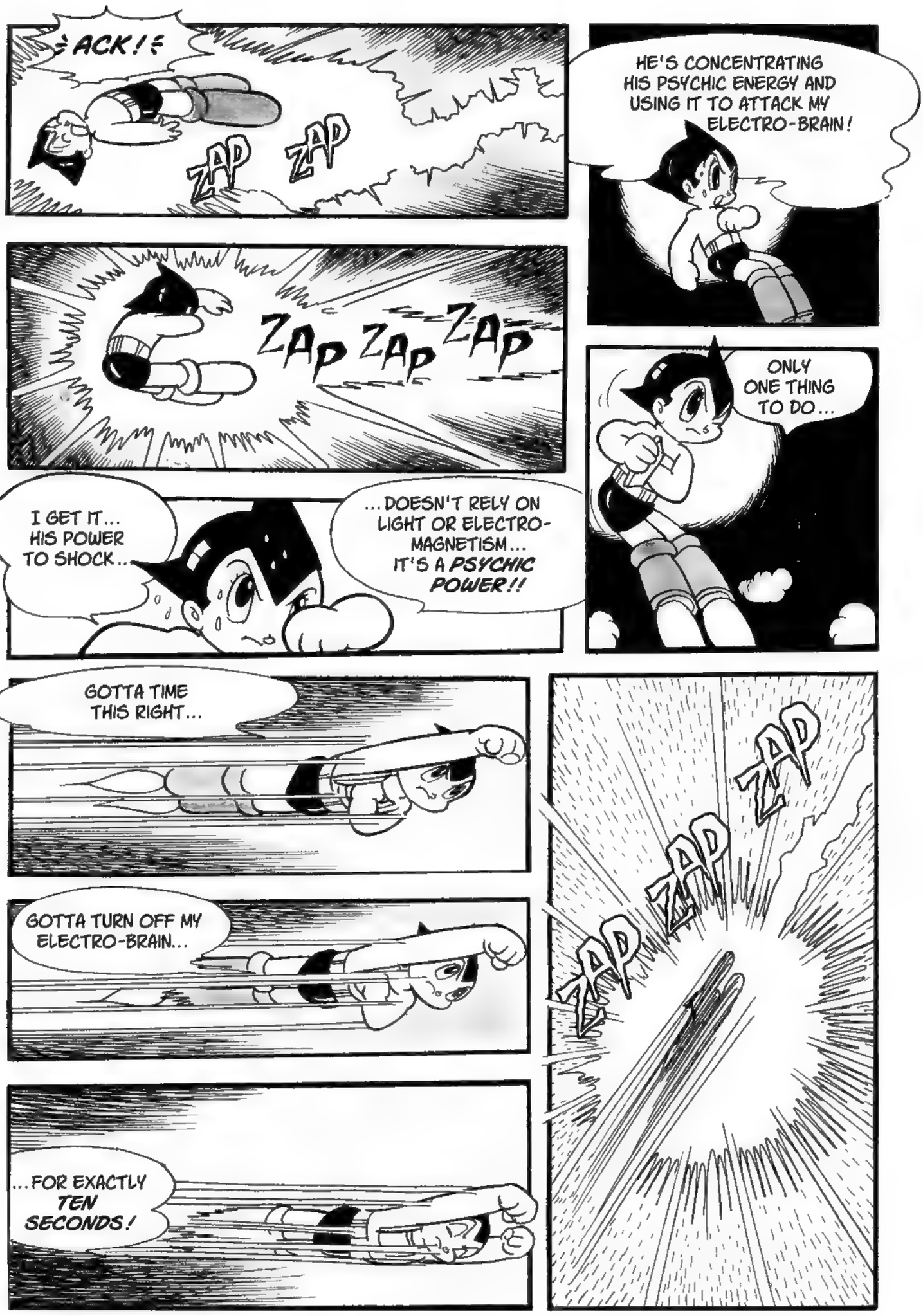
KAWHOMP
BRAVO, DOP!
JOLLY GOOD JOB, DOP!
HOW'S ZAIR-A DOING?
I DON'T KNOW... WHERE'S HE FIGHTING?
CRACK
WHAP
WHIP
FWISH
THUD
FWISH
FWIP
FWAK
HEH HEH... NOW YOU'RE OUT OF WEAPONS.


COME 'N GET IT, APACHE! OR, UNLIKE A REAL INDIAN, DO YOU WANNA SURRENDER?
ARGH!
ACK!
AIEEE!
FWOOOSH
KABASH
ZAIR!!
ZEY GOT HIM!
LOOK! THE REMAINING ROBOIDS ARE RUNNING AWAY!

NOT SO FAST!!
KABASH
SMASH


I NOT GONNA LET YOU GET AWAY! I WANNA KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE!!
CAREFUL, OR YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR...
FWP
THIS IS MY TRUE FORM, ASTRO BOY... GWA HA HA!
AND NOW FOR A TASTE OF MY TRICKS!
TAKE THIS!

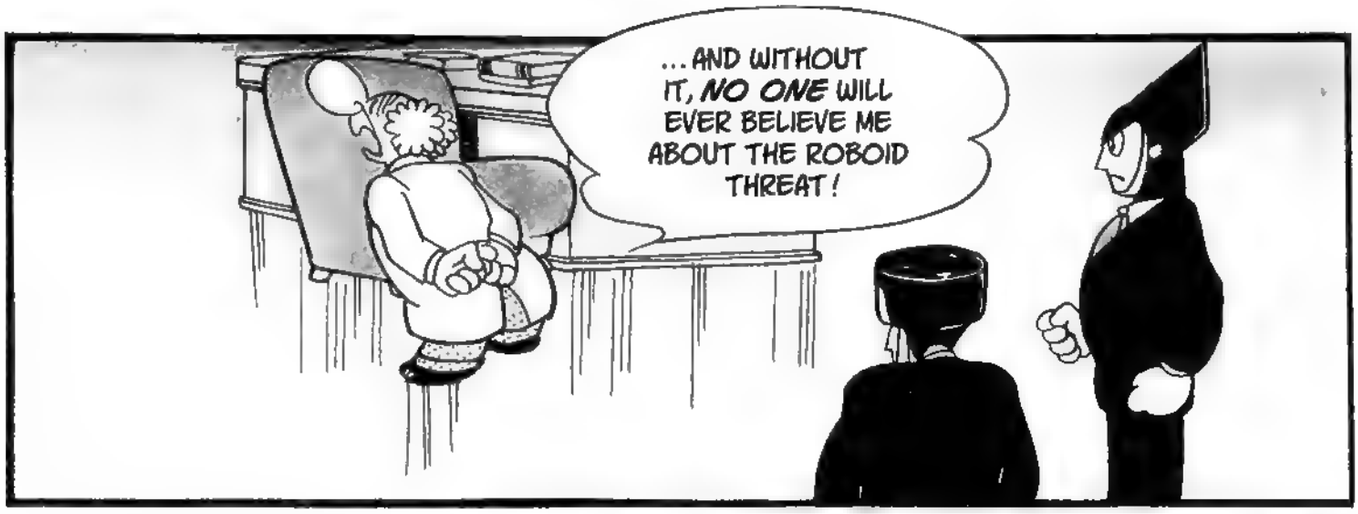

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ARGH!
WHAT WAS THAT?! IT WASN'T ELECTRICITY, BUT IT SURE WAS POWERFUL!
GWA HA HA! EVEN TEN MILLION HORSEPOWER WOULDN'T HELP YOU NOW, ASTRO BOY!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

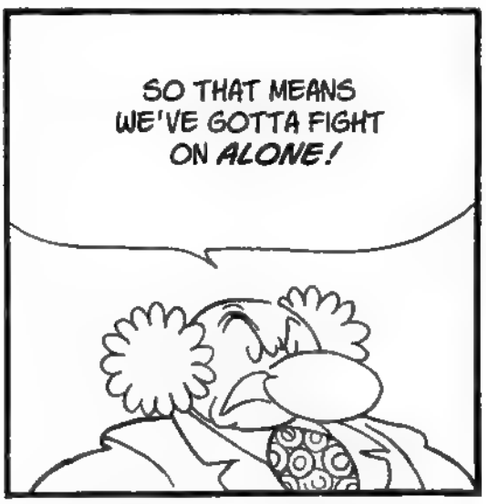

ACK!
ZAP ZAP
HE'S CONCENTRATING HIS PSYCHIC ENERGY AND USING IT TO ATTACK MY ELECTRO-BRAIN!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
I GET IT... HIS POWER TO SHOCK..
...DOESN'T RELY ON LIGHT OR ELECTRO-MAGNETISM... IT'S A PSYCHIC POWER!!
GOTTA TIME THIS RIGHT...
ZAP ZAP ZAP
GOTTA TURN OFF MY ELECTRO-BRAIN...
...FOR EXACTLY TEN SECONDS!

WHAT HAPPENED?! MY POWER'S...
...NOT WORKING!!
KABASH
ARGH!!

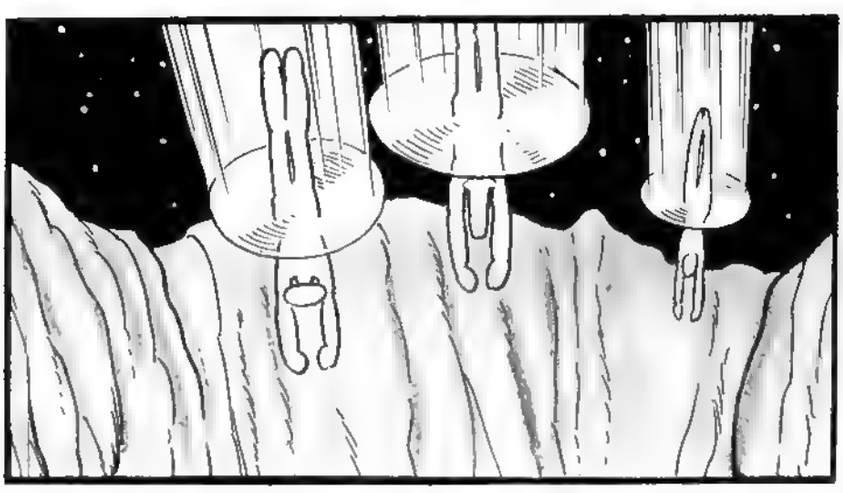
ZOOM!
GOTCHA, ASTRO!
WELL DONE!!
AH... WH- WHERE'RE THE ROBOIDS?
YOU PUT ONE OF 'EM OUT OF ACTION!
I WAS HOPING TO GET TWO MORE...
LET'S NOT TEMPT OUR LUCK... LET THEM BE FOR NOW, ASTRO...
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
WELL? H-HOW'D IT GO?!
WE'RE BACK, PROFES- SOR...

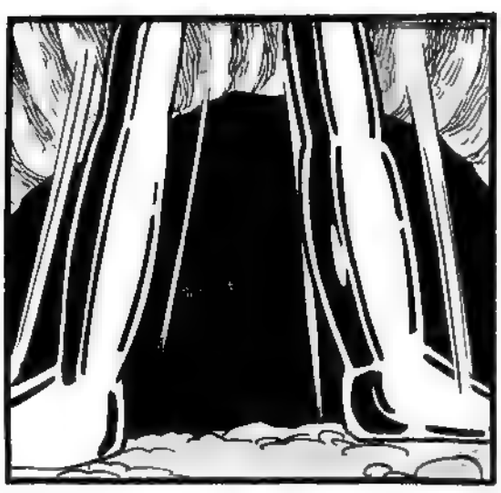
WE TOOK ON FIVE OF THE ROBOIDS, PROFESSOR...
SO THERE *ARE* FIVE, EH?
BUT WHERE'S ZAIR-A?
UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS DESTROYED...
BUT WE GOT TWO OF ZEM!
THEY'RE REAL MONSTERS, PROFESSOR!
HE'S NOT KIDDING! I'VE *NEVER* MET SUCH POWERFUL OPPONENTS...
GENTLE-MEN...
...I KNOW THERE'S NO POINT IN OVEREMPHASIZING THIS...
...BUT NOW WE'RE THE *ONLY* FIVE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO KNOW ABOUT THE ROBOIDS...
AS YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE ROBOIDS STOLE OUR EVIDENCE... THE *TAPE RECORDING*...

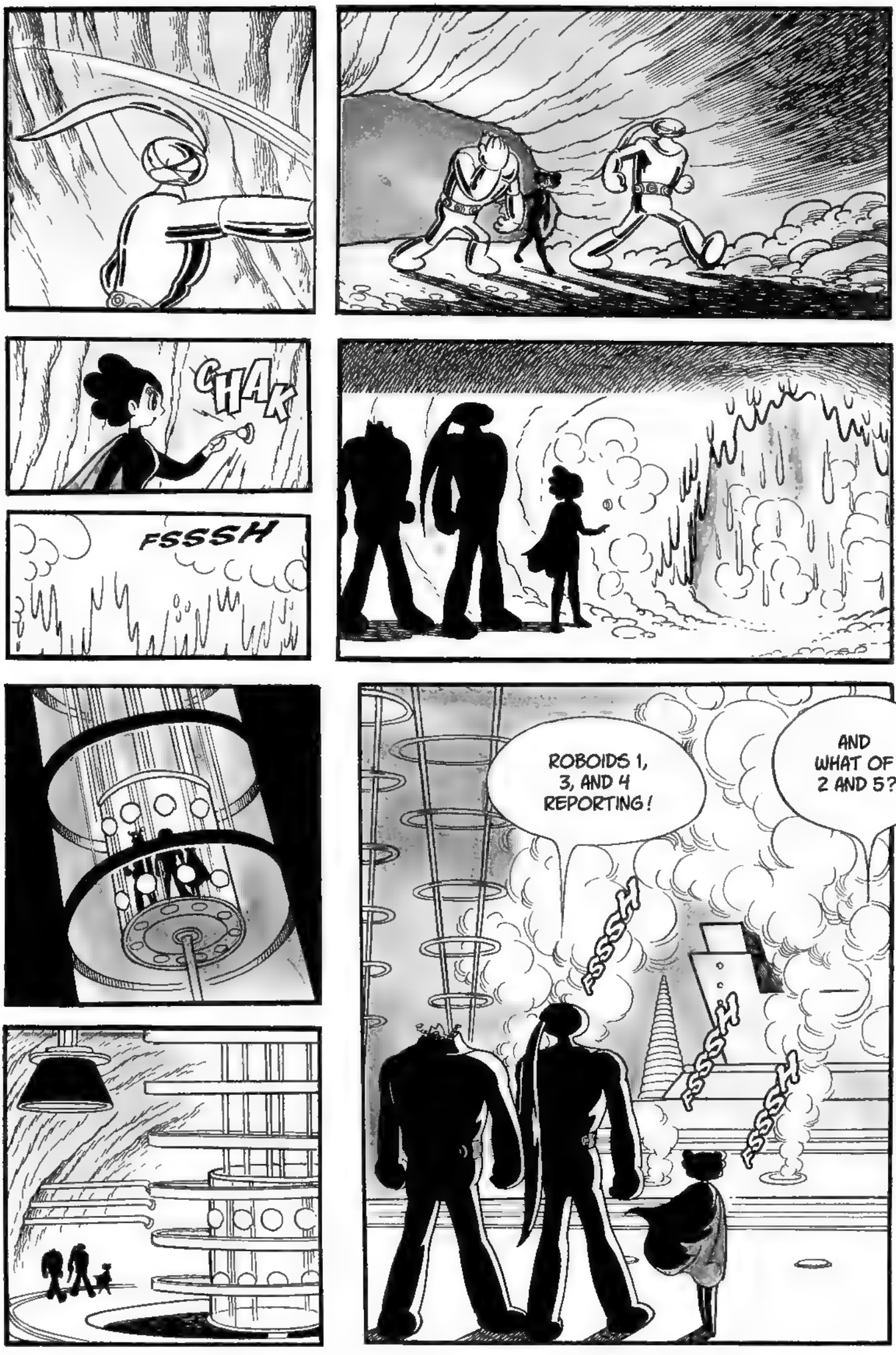

...AND WITHOUT IT, NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE ME ABOUT THE ROBOID THREAT!


SO THAT MEANS WE'VE GOTTA FIGHT ON ALONE!

I WANT TO KNOW WHO THESE ROBOIDS REALLY ARE...
...WHERE THEY'RE FROM, AND WHY THEY WANT TO DESTROY HUMANS!





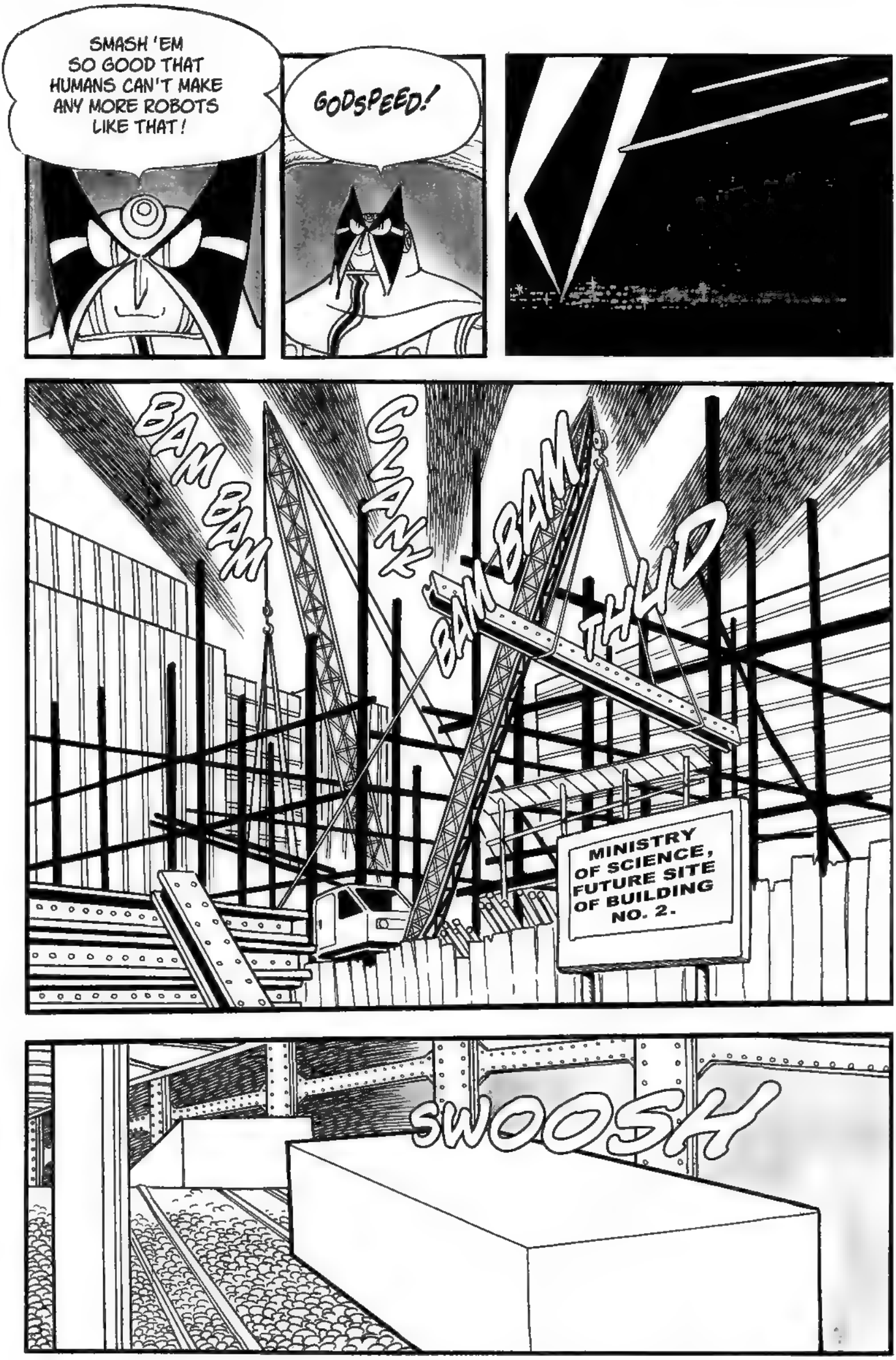

CHAK
FSSSH
ROBOIDS 1, 3, AND 4 REPORTING!
AND WHAT OF 2 AND 5?
FSSSH
FSSSH
FSSSH

THEY WERE DESTROYED BY THE ROBOTS!
THEY WHAT?!!
DESTROYED BY ROBOTS?
WHAT THEN OF THE REST OF YOUR ASSIGN-MENT?
HAVE YOU NOT UNDERESTIMATED THE HUMANS AND ROBOTS?
.....
.....
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, BOTH HUMANS AND ROBOTS ARE INFERIOR BEINGS...
BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THEM, OR THEY'LL GET THE BETTER OF YOU!
THE WORST ONE'S A ROBOT BRAT NAMED ASTRO BOY, SIR...
ROBOID 4!!

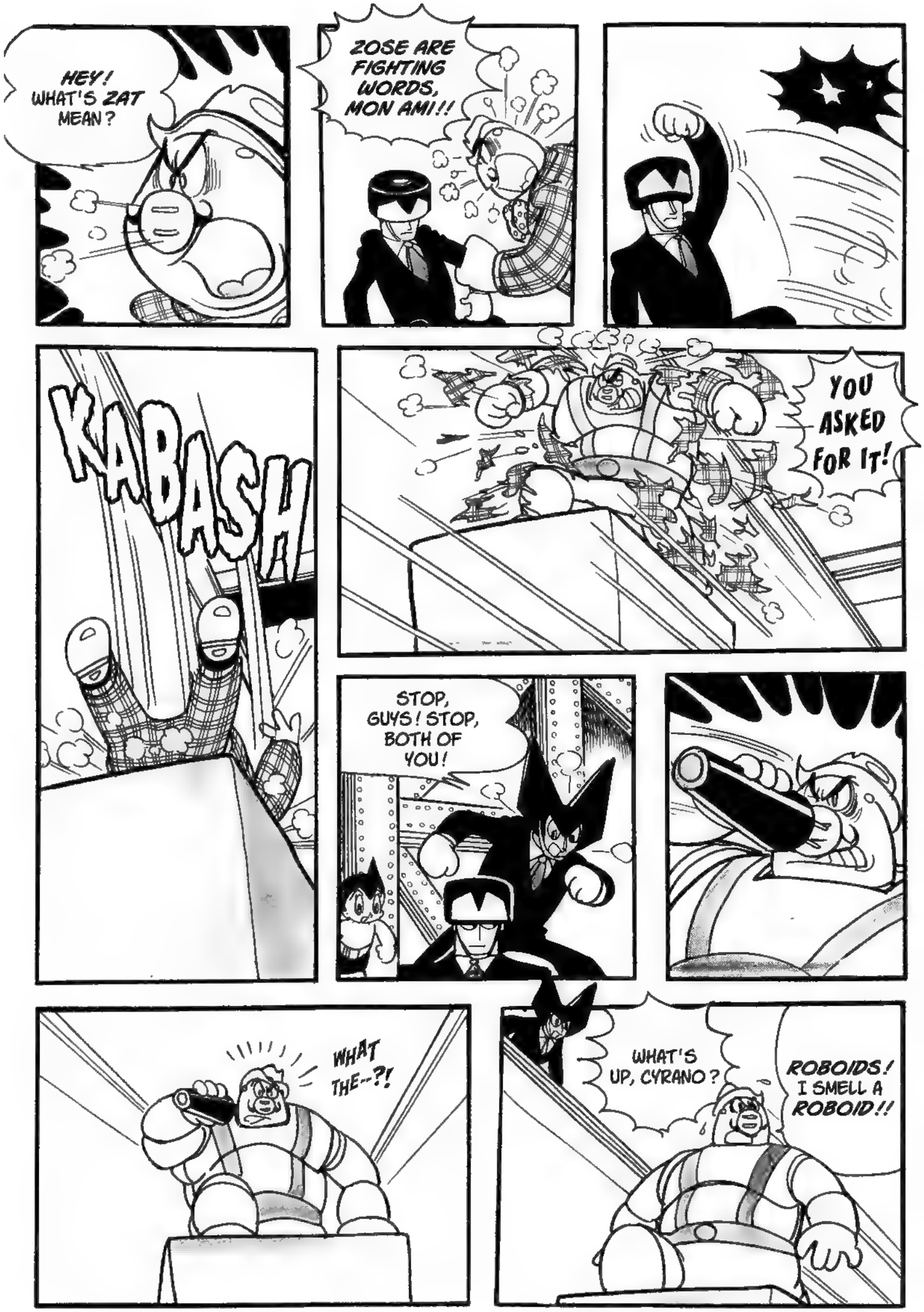
SIR?
GO TO ASTRO BOY'S PLACE, DISGUISED AS HIS YOUNGER SISTER AGAIN...
...AND DESTROY HIM BY TOMORROW!
BY TOMOR-ROW?!
RIGHT! AND IF YOU FAIL THIS ASSIGNMENT, I'LL HAVE YOU MELTED DOWN!
AS FOR YOU, ROBOID 3, USE YOUR FAMOUS DEATH BELT TO TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS!
YESSIR!
IF ROBOID 3 HAS ANY PROBLEM, HELP HIM OUT, ROBOID 1!
DON'T WORRY, I CAN HANDLE THIS ALONE!
UNDER-STOOD...
AFTER A BRIEF REST, GO FORTH!

CHANK
BEEP
IT'S YOUR PAPA, LOLO... CAN YOU SEE ME?
DADDY!
IS EVERY-THING OKAY, DEAR?
WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
EVERY-THING'S FINE...
WHAT'S IT LIKE ABOVE GROUND, DADDY? DID YOU MEET ANY OF THOSE HUMANS YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT?
IT'S TOO BRIGHT HERE, LOLO... BUT DURING WHAT THEY CALL NIGHT IT GETS DARK, AND THEN IT FEELS GOOD...
C'N YOU BRING ME A HUMAN HOME AS A SOUVENIR, DADDY?
I'M SORRY, LOLO, BUT THEY WOULDN'T SURVIVE THE TRIP...

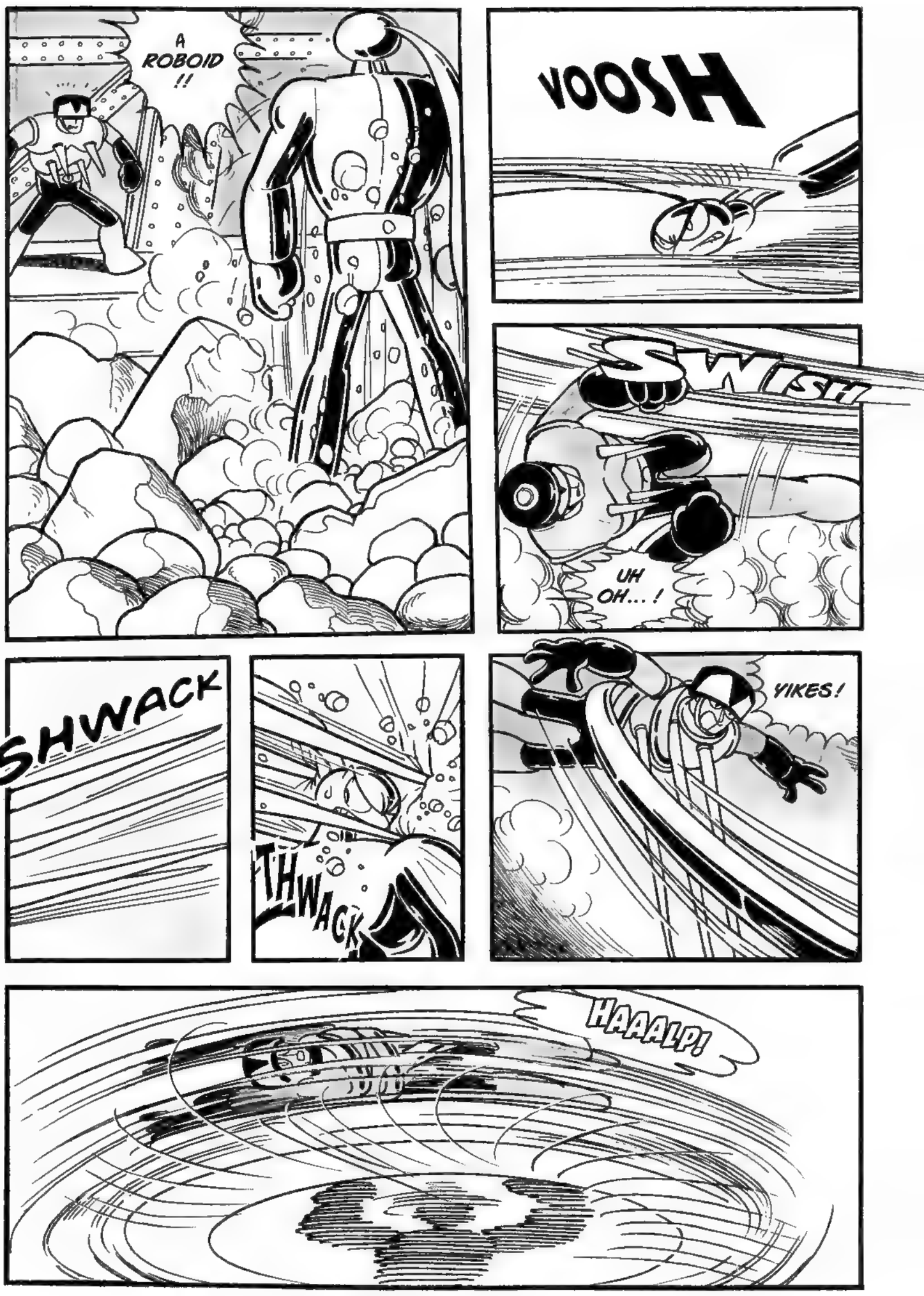
I WANNA GO TO THE SURFACE, TOO, DADDY! YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR ROBOIDS, RIGHT!? I WANNA HELP YOU!
NO, LOLO!
YOU HAVE TO STAY HOME AND HELP YOUR MOTHER!
I'LL COME HOME AS SOON AS MY WORK'S OVER, AND I'LL HAVE LOTS OF STORIES TO TELL YOU THEN, OKAY?
I'LL SEE YOU LATER...
B-BUT DEAR ...
BZZAP
VOOOOM
ZOOOOM


SMASH 'EM SO GOOD THAT HUMANS CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE ROBOTS LIKE THAT!
GODSPEED!
BAM BAM
CLANK
BAM-BAM
THUD
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, FUTURE SITE OF BUILDING NO. 2.
SWOOSH

YOU KNOW, BOX, I REALLY THINK ZE ROBOIDS MUST BE FROM ANOTHER PLANET...
YOU MEAN FROM OUTER SPACE?
YES, ZEY MUST BE... ZEY MUST BE ALIEN ROBOTS. ZAT'S GOTTA BE WHY ZEY CAN ATTACK PEOPLE!
I THINK THEY'RE FROM UNDER-GROUND.
FROM WHERE?
UNDER-GROUND?
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHY DO YOU THINK ZAT, DOP?
YOU THINK ZEY LIVE LIKE MOLES OR SOMEZING?
.....
.....
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE? YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE?
SAY SOMEZING, DOP!
IT'S NO USE TELLING YOU GUYS...


HEY! WHAT'S ZAT MEAN?
ZOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS, MON AMI!!
KABASH
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
STOP, GUYS! STOP, BOTH OF YOU!
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT'S UP, CYRANO?
ROBOIDS! I SMELL A ROBOID!!

MUST BE ONE HIDING NEARBY! WE'D BETTER CHECK!
ROBOIDS? IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN? ARE YOU SURE?
DOP, SEARCH OVER THERE! CYRANO, SEARCH AROUND HERE...
ZOSE ROBOIDS HAVE LOTS OF NERVE COMING 'ROUND HERE...
HM... NOBODY UNDER HERE...
STRANGE... I REALLY SENSED ZEM CLOSE BY...
WHAT THE--?!
KABASH
.....
.....

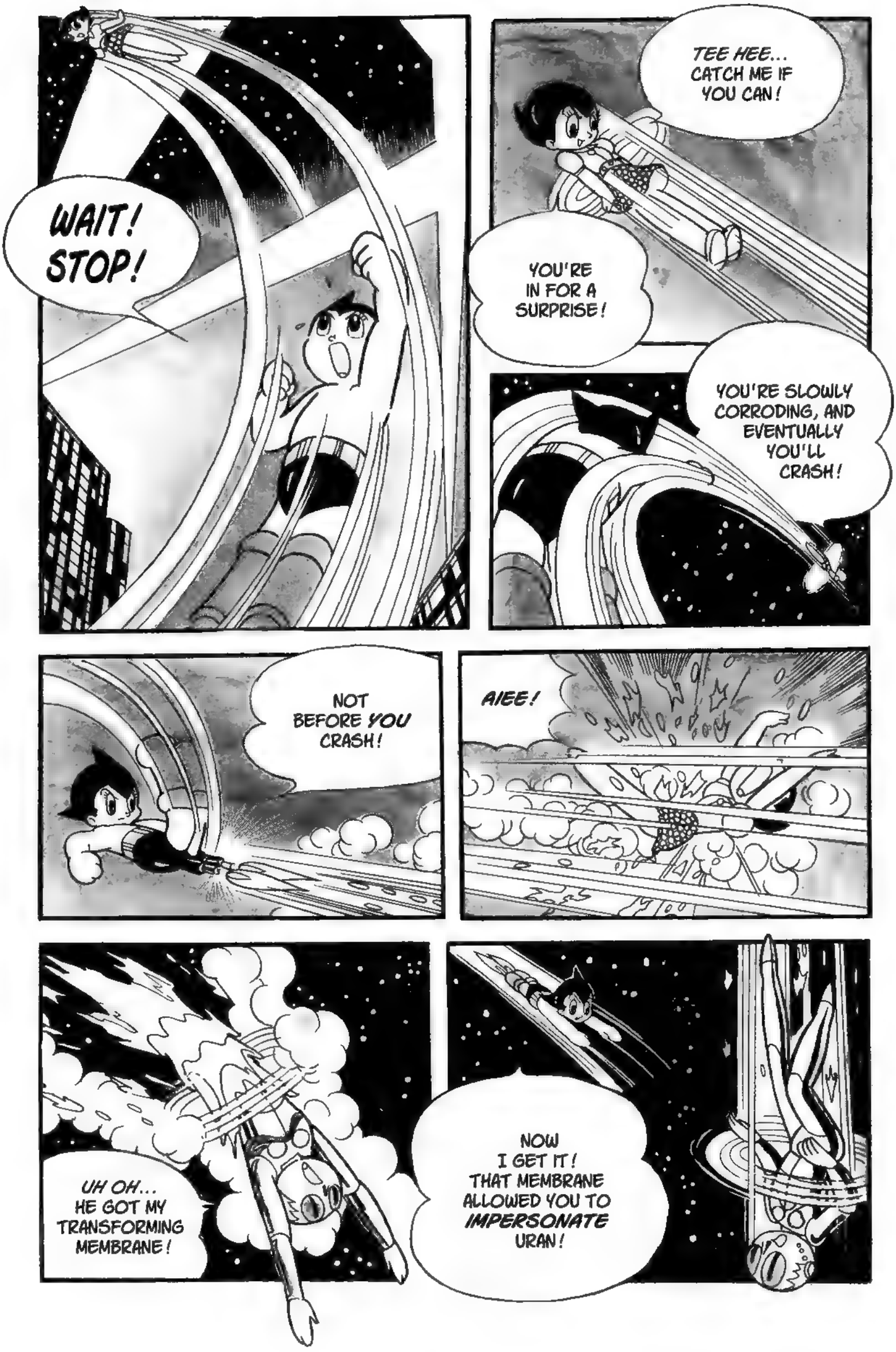

A ROBOID !!
VOOSH
SWISH
UH OH...!
SHWACK
THWACK
YIKES!
HAAALP!

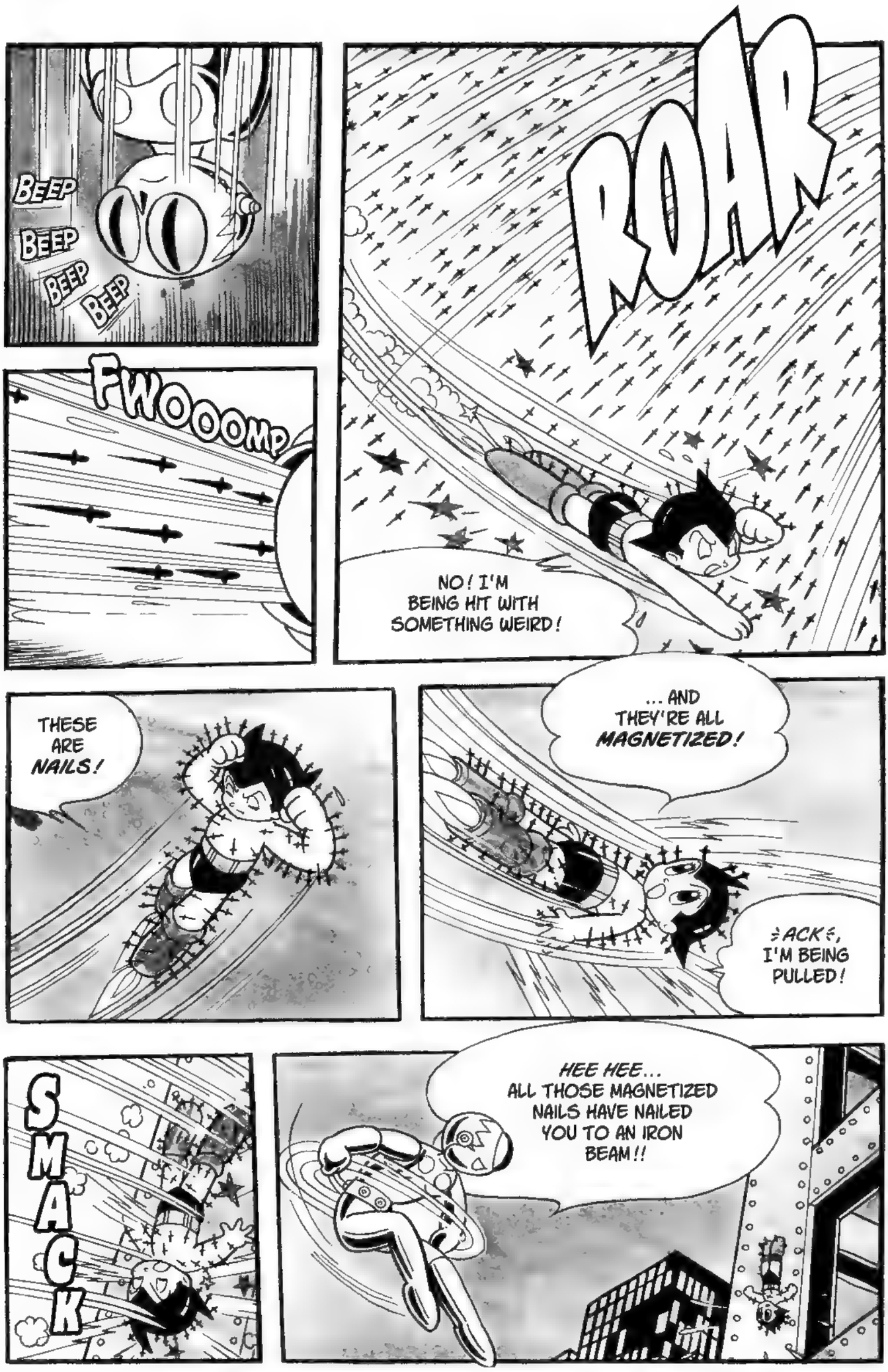
KABOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT'S DOP! WHAT HAPPENED?!
DOP! HANG IN THERE!
IT'S TOO LATE... I'M DONE FOR...
BOX... CYRANO... DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME...
...BUT MY BODY'S DESIGNED TO TRIGGER A NUCLEAR BLAST IN THREE MINUTES...

THE ROBOID I WAS FIGHTING WAS HIDING IN A STONE WALL...
REMEMBER SEEING A ROBOT-LIKE CREATURE DOWN THERE ONCE...
BUT WE WORKERS WERE ALL ORDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO NEVER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
CYRANO... EARLIER, I SAID THEY WERE PROBABLY FROM UNDERGROUND, BECAUSE I ONCE WORKED UNDERGROUND MYSELF...
HURRY, AND GET OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE I EXPLODE...
WHAT THE--?
DOP...
FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS... TAKE CARE OF THE ROBOIDS!
KABOOOM

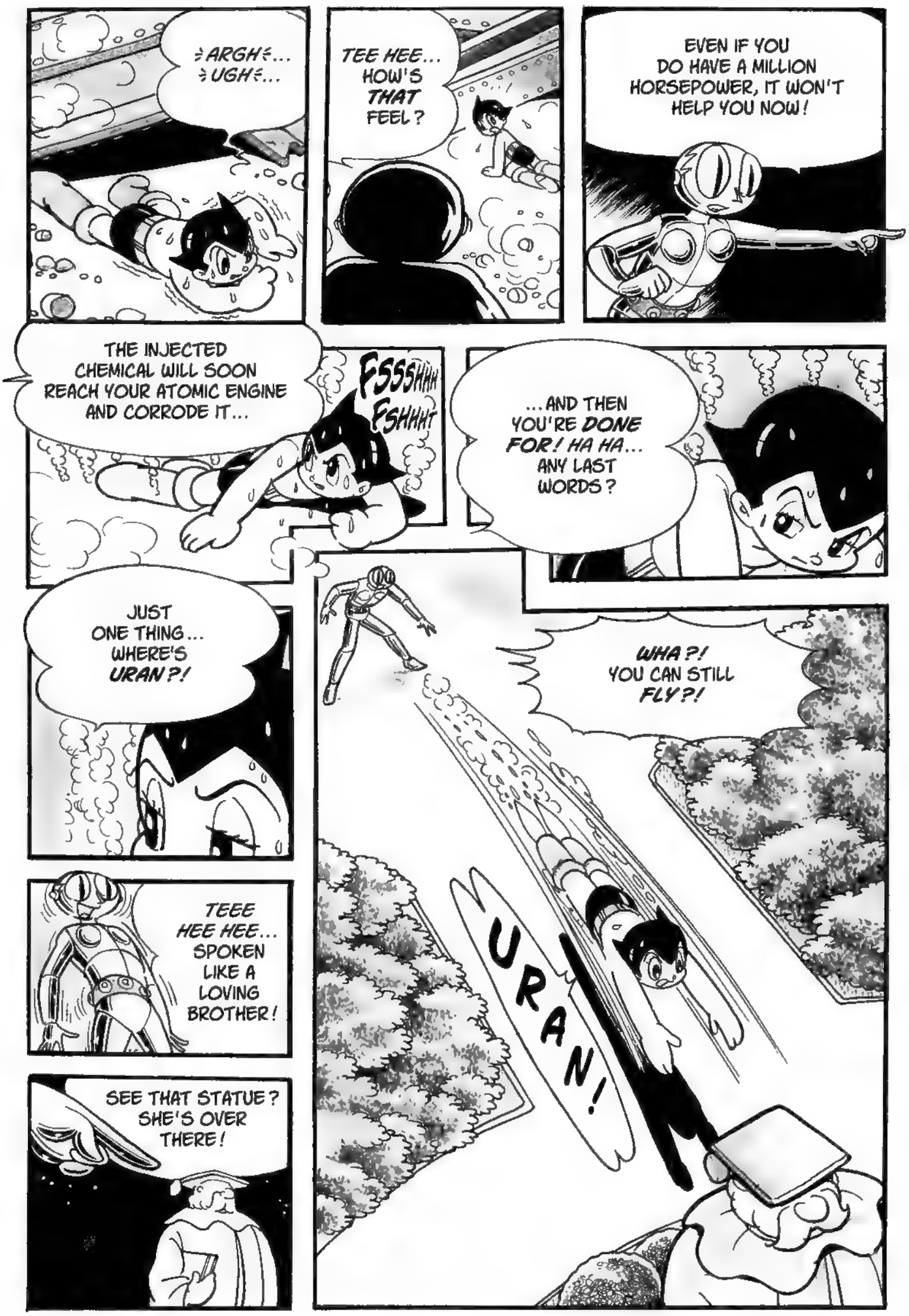
ZOOOM
POOR DOP...
WE HAVE A REPORT OF AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION, SOME 900,000 FEET ABOVE THE EARTH. AUTHORITIES ARE CHECKING TO SEE IF IT'S FROM A MISSILE...
SO THEY'VE LOST TWO, AND SO HAVE WE...
NOW IT'S A THREE-AGAINST-THREE FIGHT... GOTTA BE CAREFUL...
I BETTER GO HOME AND GET A GOOD REFILL OF ENERGY...
HEY, ASTRO!
URAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, ASTRO... I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK...
YOU RETRACT YOUR HANDS 'N FEET WHEN YOU FLY, RIGHT?

I WANNA SEE HOW YOU DO THAT, ASTRO! IT LOOKS COOL!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT, URAN!!
BUT I WANNA SEEE!
OKAY, LIKE THIS.
BZZAP
TEE HEE HEE... THAT WAS EASY, ASTRO BOY... YOU THOUGHT I WAS URAN, BUT I'M ROBOID 4!!
NO!! THIS CAN'T BE!
WHA?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!!
THIS WORKED WELL... I NEEDED TO INJECT YOU WITH A LIQUID THAT'LL MAKE YOU CORRODE...
NOT SO FAST! STOP!!
SO NOW YOU'RE GONNA ROT!! HA HAH HAH!


WAIT! STOP!
TEE HEE... CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE!
YOU'RE SLOWLY CORRODING, AND EVENTUALLY YOU'LL CRASH!
NOT BEFORE YOU CRASH!
AIEE!
UH OH... HE GOT MY TRANSFORMING MEMBRANE!
NOW I GET IT! THAT MEMBRANE ALLOWED YOU TO IMPERSONATE URAN!


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
FWOOOMP
ROAR
NO! I'M BEING HIT WITH SOMETHING WEIRD!
THESE ARE NAILS!
... AND THEY'RE ALL MAGNETIZED!
=ACK=, I'M BEING PULLED!
SMACK
HEE HEE... ALL THOSE MAGNETIZED NAILS HAVE NAILED YOU TO AN IRON BEAM!!

NOW FOR THE COUP DE GRACE, ASTRO!
NOT SO FAST!
EEEK!
KATHWACK
KATHUD

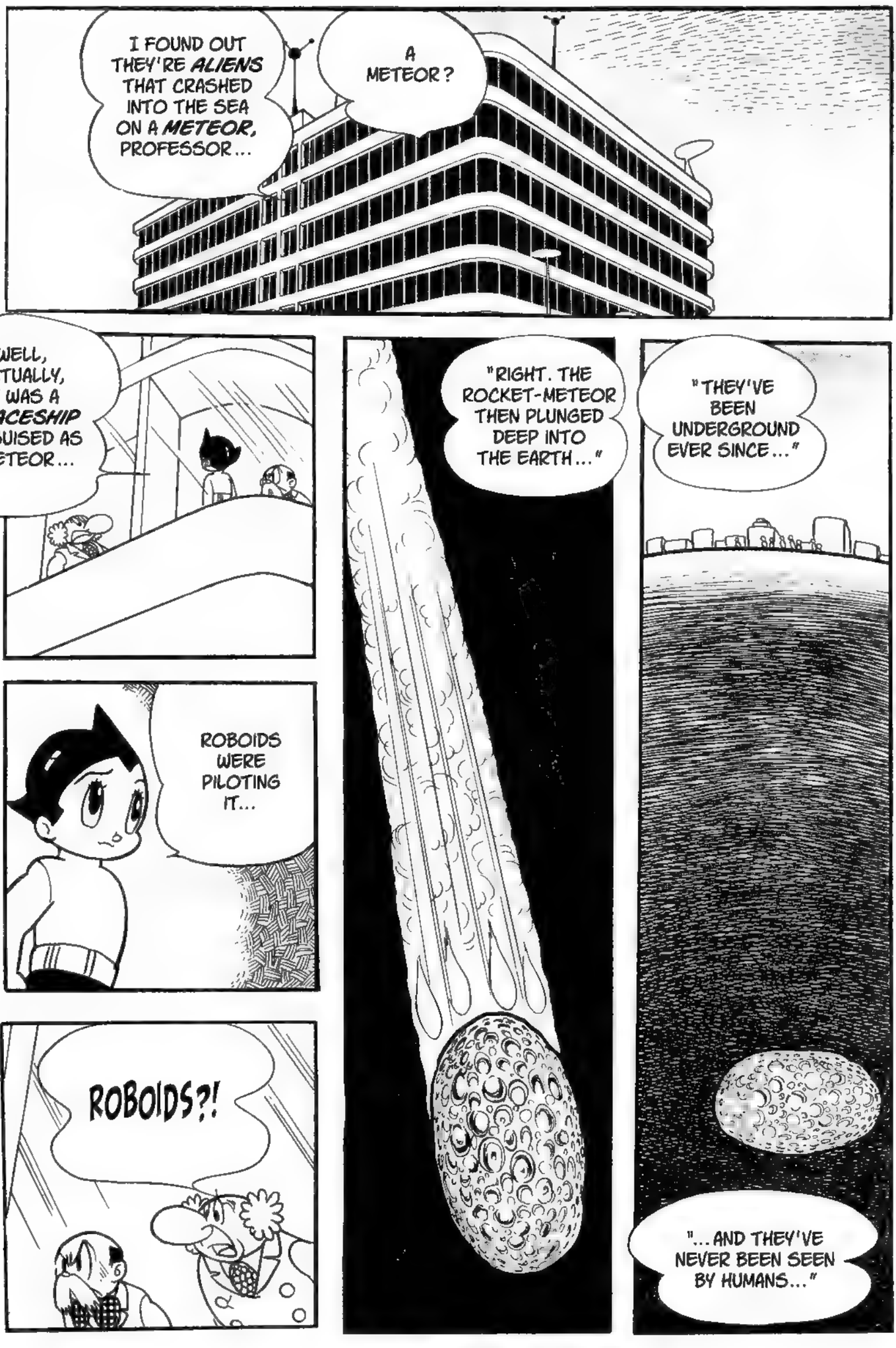

≠ARGH≠...
≠UGH≠...
TEE HEE... HOW'S THAT FEEL?
EVEN IF YOU DO HAVE A MILLION HORSEPOWER, IT WON'T HELP YOU NOW!
THE INJECTED CHEMICAL WILL SOON REACH YOUR ATOMIC ENGINE AND CORRODE IT...
FSSSHHH FSHHHT
...AND THEN YOU'RE DONE FOR! HA HA... ANY LAST WORDS?
JUST ONE THING... WHERE'S URAN?!
WHA?! YOU CAN STILL FLY?!
URAN!
TEEE HEE HEE... SPOKEN LIKE A LOVING BROTHER!
SEE THAT STATUE? SHE'S OVER THERE!

URAN!
KASMASSH

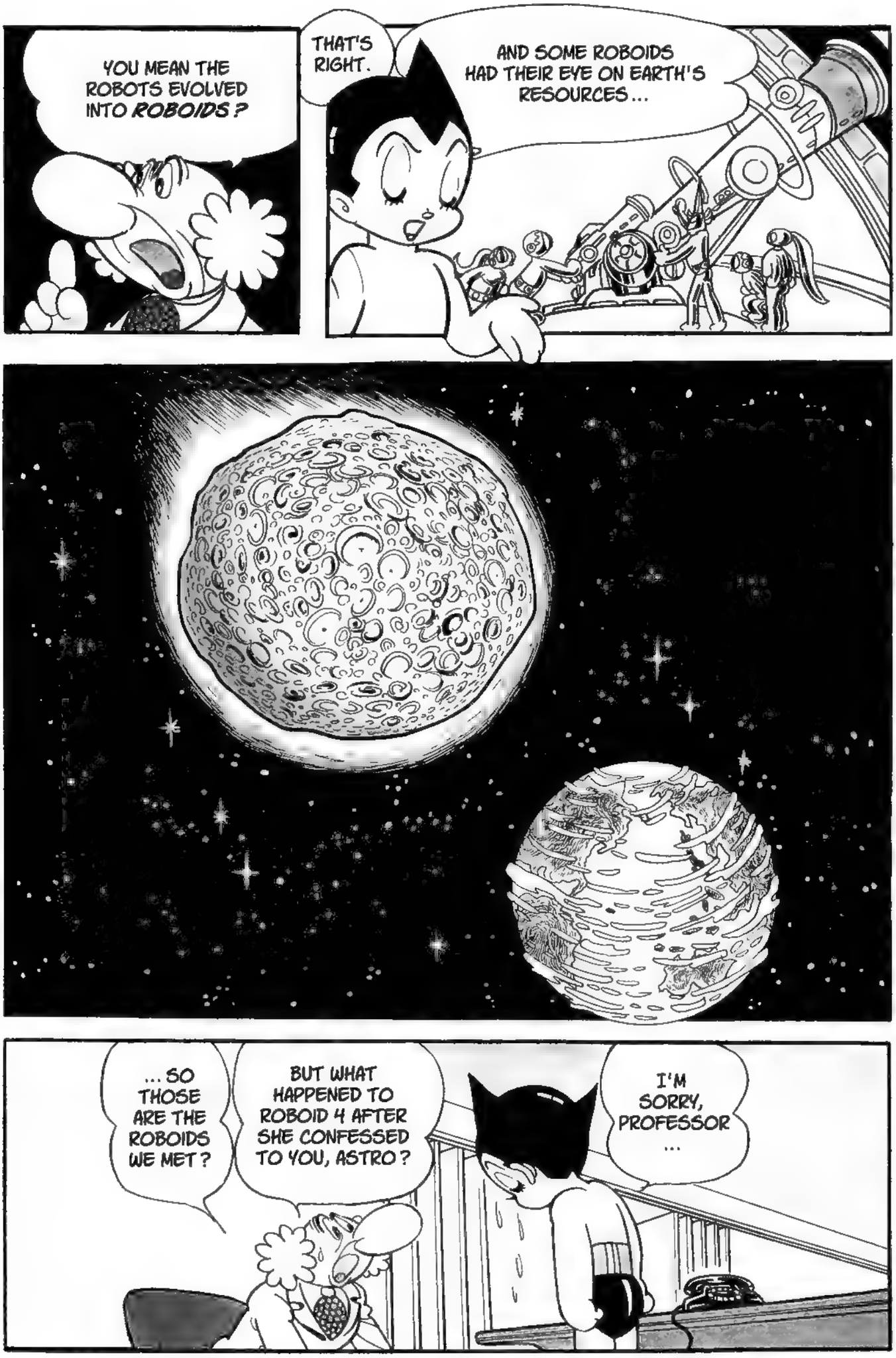
URAN...
URAN... IS THAT YOU?
URAN... I'VE GOTTA BORROW YOUR ATOMIC ENGINE, 'CUZ MINE'S NOT WORKING...
RATS! IF HE DOES THAT, I'M IN TROUBLE!
WELL, I WON'T LET HIM!!
KAVOOSH

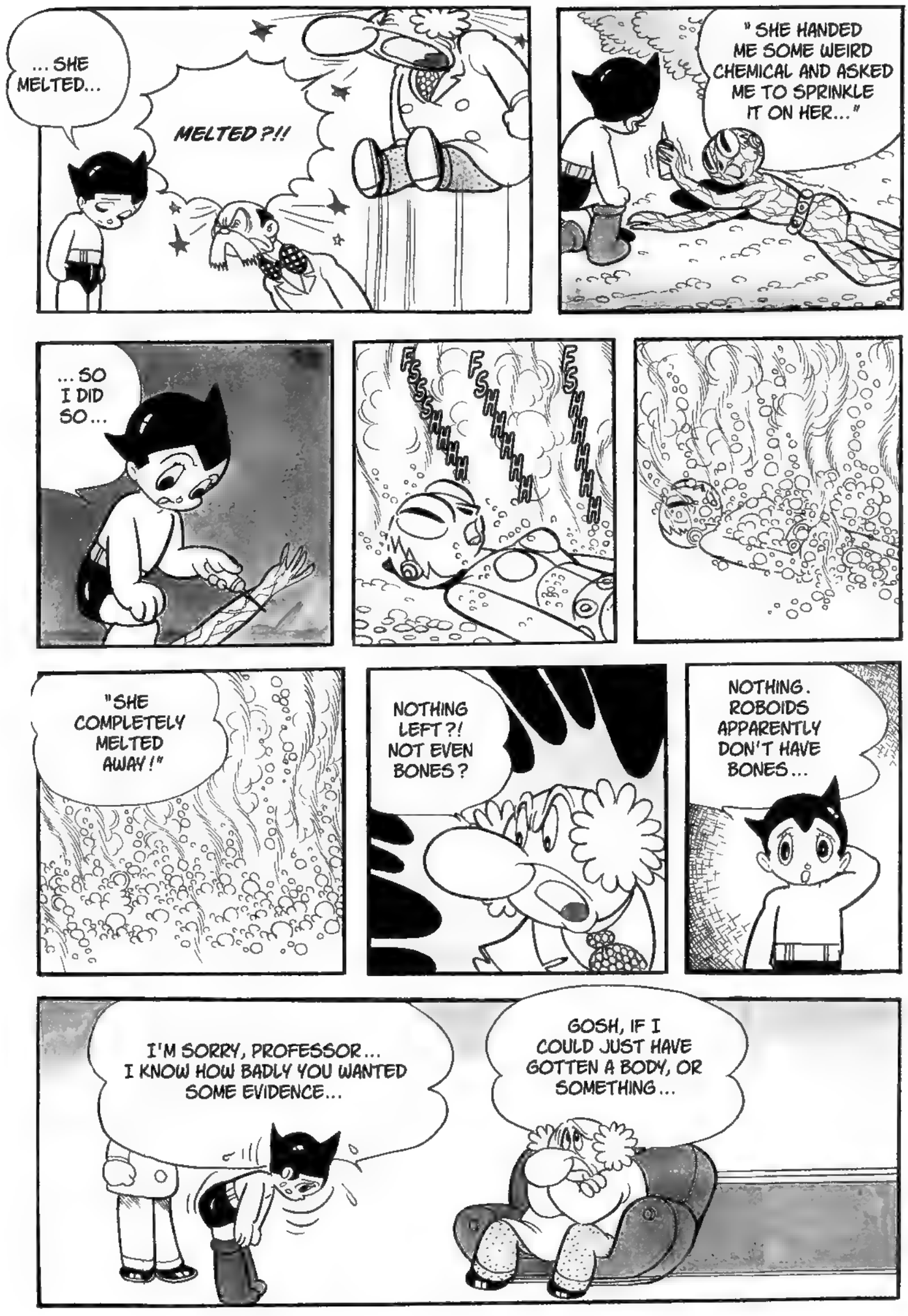
VOOSH
OKAY, NOW I'LL TAKE YOU ON!
KABAM
SWAY

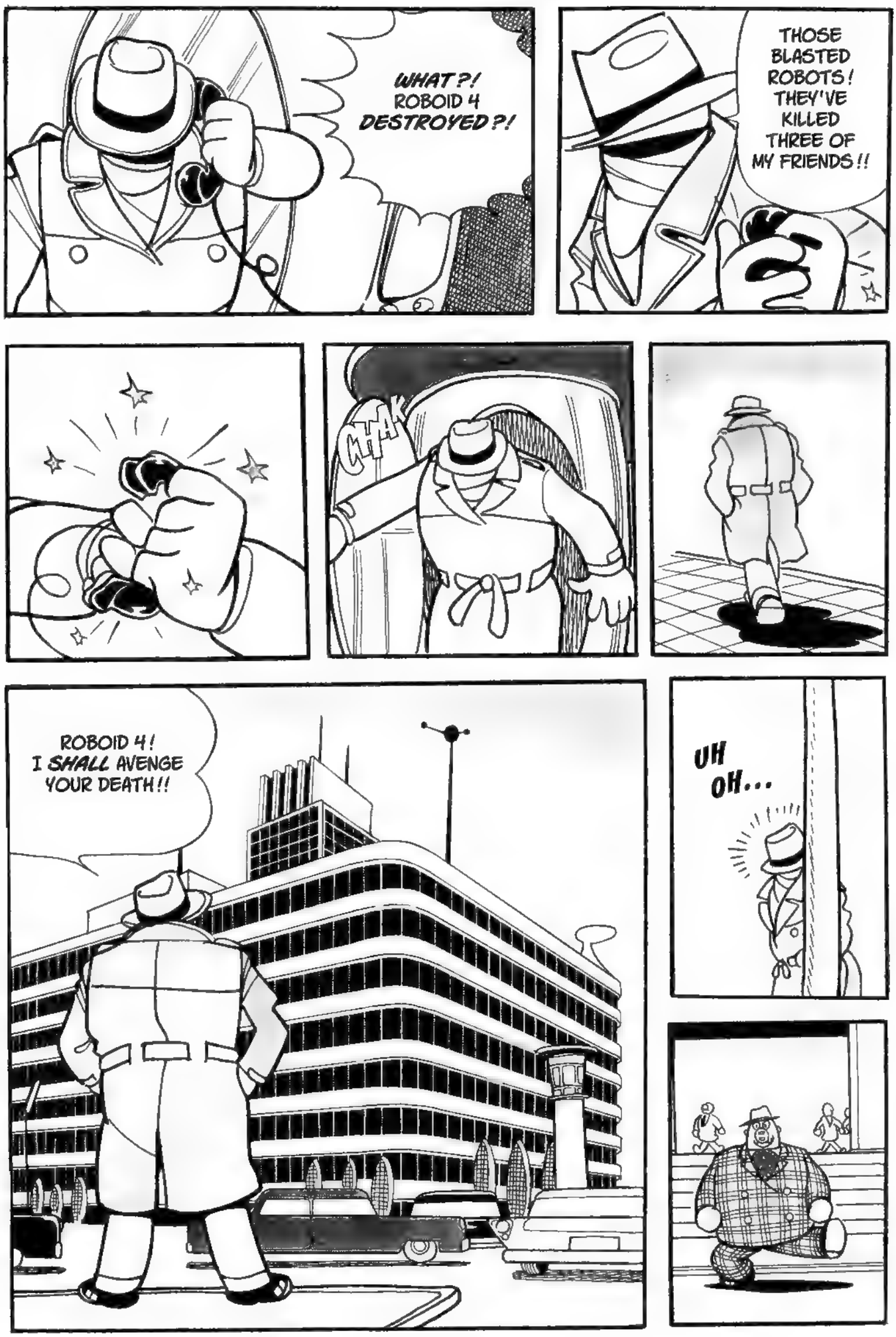
KATHUD
I LOSE... ASTRO BOY... YOU *ARE* AN AMAZING ROBOT...
I KNOW YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME TO DIE, SO YOU CAN TAKE MY BODY TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE... *PLEASE* SPARE ME THAT, ASTRO... *PLEASE*...
HUMANS MUST *NEVER* LEARN THE SECRET OF ROBOID BODIES...
"A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN A SEA NEAR JAPAN..."
KABOOOSH
IF YOU GRANT MY WISH, I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING...
BUT I WANNA KNOW *EVERYTHING* ...

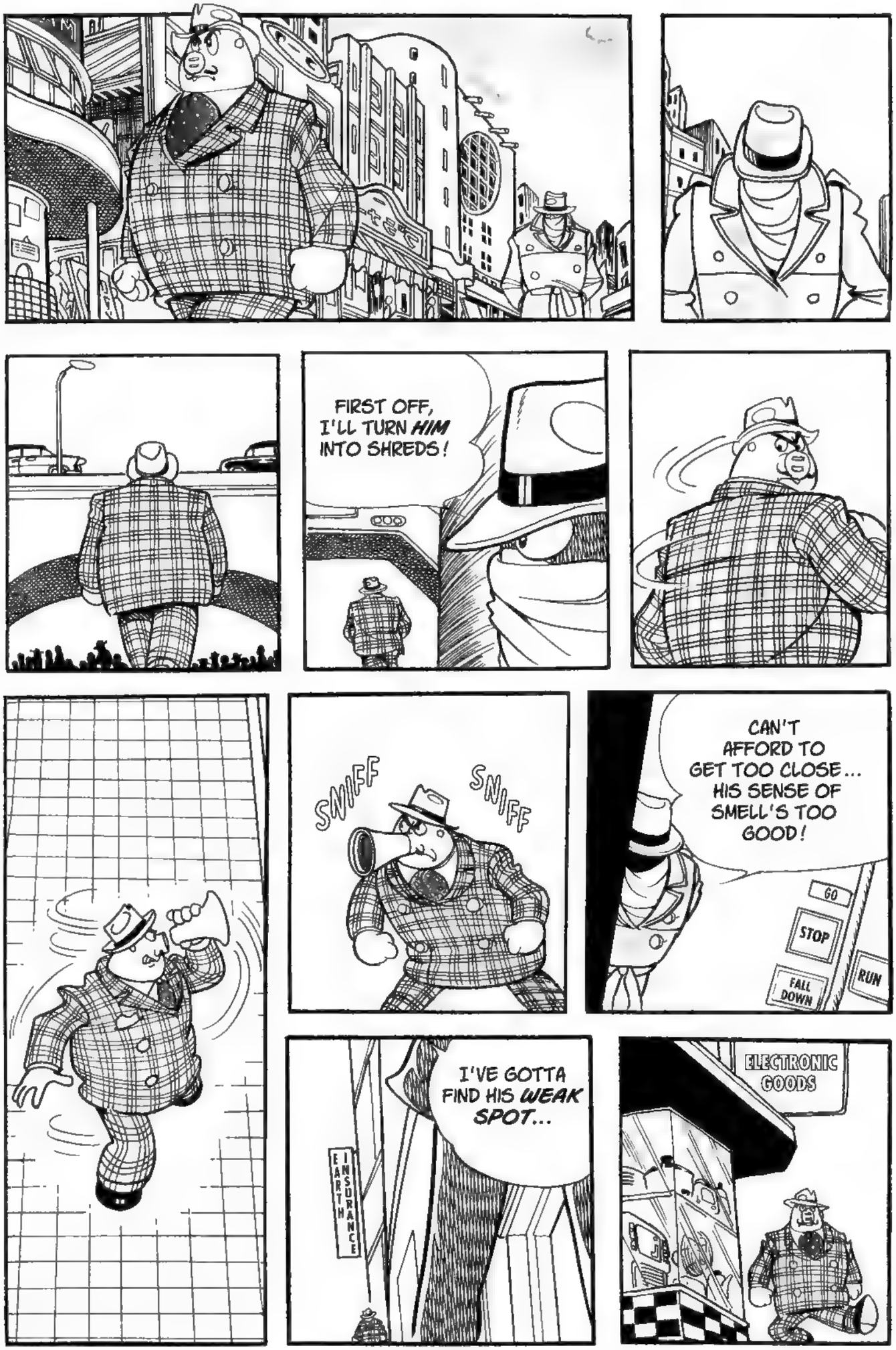

I FOUND OUT THEY'RE ALIENS THAT CRASHED INTO THE SEA ON A METEOR, PROFESSOR...
A METEOR?
WELL, ACTUALLY, IT WAS A SPACESHIP DISGUISED AS A METEOR...
ROBOIDS WERE PILOTING IT...
ROBOIDS?!
"RIGHT. THE ROCKET-METEOR THEN PLUNGED DEEP INTO THE EARTH..."
"THEY'VE BEEN UNDERGROUND EVER SINCE..."
"... AND THEY'VE NEVER BEEN SEEN BY HUMANS..."

B-BUT WHERE'RE ZE ROBOIDS REALLY FROM?
WELL, ON A CERTAIN STAR...
"...THE HUMANS DIED OFF A LONG TIME AGO... LEAVING ONLY THE ROBOTS THEY HAD MADE..."
"THE ROBOTS KEPT MAKING NEW ROBOTS, AND *EVOLVING*..."
THEY WERE BORN AND DIED, JUST LIKE HUMANS, AND THEY COULD APPARENTLY HAVE *CHILDREN*, TOO...
ROBOTS HAVING CHILDREN? *HAH!* I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT!


YOU MEAN THE ROBOTS EVOLVED INTO *ROBOIDS*?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND SOME ROBOIDS HAD THEIR EYE ON EARTH'S RESOURCES...
...SO THOSE ARE THE ROBOIDS WE MET?
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBOID 4 AFTER SHE CONFESSED TO YOU, ASTRO?
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR ...


... SHE MELTED...
MELTED?!!
" SHE HANDED ME SOME WEIRD CHEMICAL AND ASKED ME TO SPRINKLE IT ON HER..."
... SO I DID SO...
FSSSHHH
FSHHHH
FSSSSSS
"SHE COMPLETELY MELTED AWAY!"
NOTHING LEFT?! NOT EVEN BONES?
NOTHING. ROBOIDS APPARENTLY DON'T HAVE BONES...
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR... I KNOW HOW BADLY YOU WANTED SOME EVIDENCE...
GOSH, IF I COULD JUST HAVE GOTTEN A BODY, OR SOMETHING...


WHAT?! ROBOID 4 DESTROYED?!
THOSE BLASTED ROBOTS! THEY'VE KILLED THREE OF MY FRIENDS!!
CLAK
ROBOID 4! I SHALL AVENGE YOUR DEATH!!
UH OH...

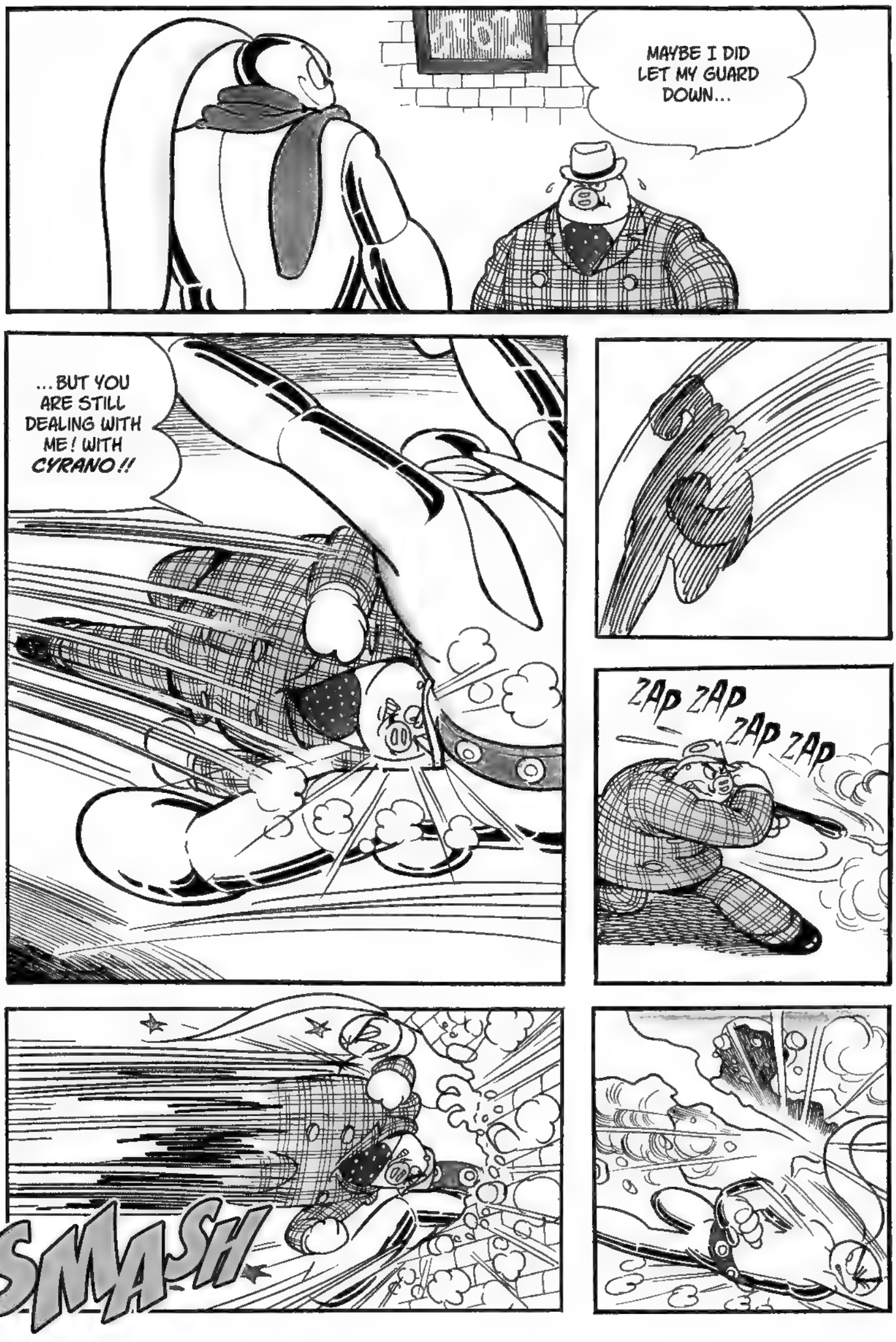

FIRST OFF, I'LL TURN *HIM* INTO SHREDS!
SNIFF SNIFF
CAN'T AFFORD TO GET TOO CLOSE... HIS SENSE OF SMELL'S TOO GOOD!
GO
STOP
FALL DOWN
RUN
I'VE GOTTA FIND HIS *WEAK SPOT*...
EARTH INSURANCE
ELECTRONIC GOODS

EGADS!
UH OH ...
HMM... HE HATES ELECTRONICS SHOPS... HOW WEIRD...
CAKES & CHOCOLATES
CAKES & CHOCOLATES
HOORAY!!
YAY FOR MR. ROBOT!!

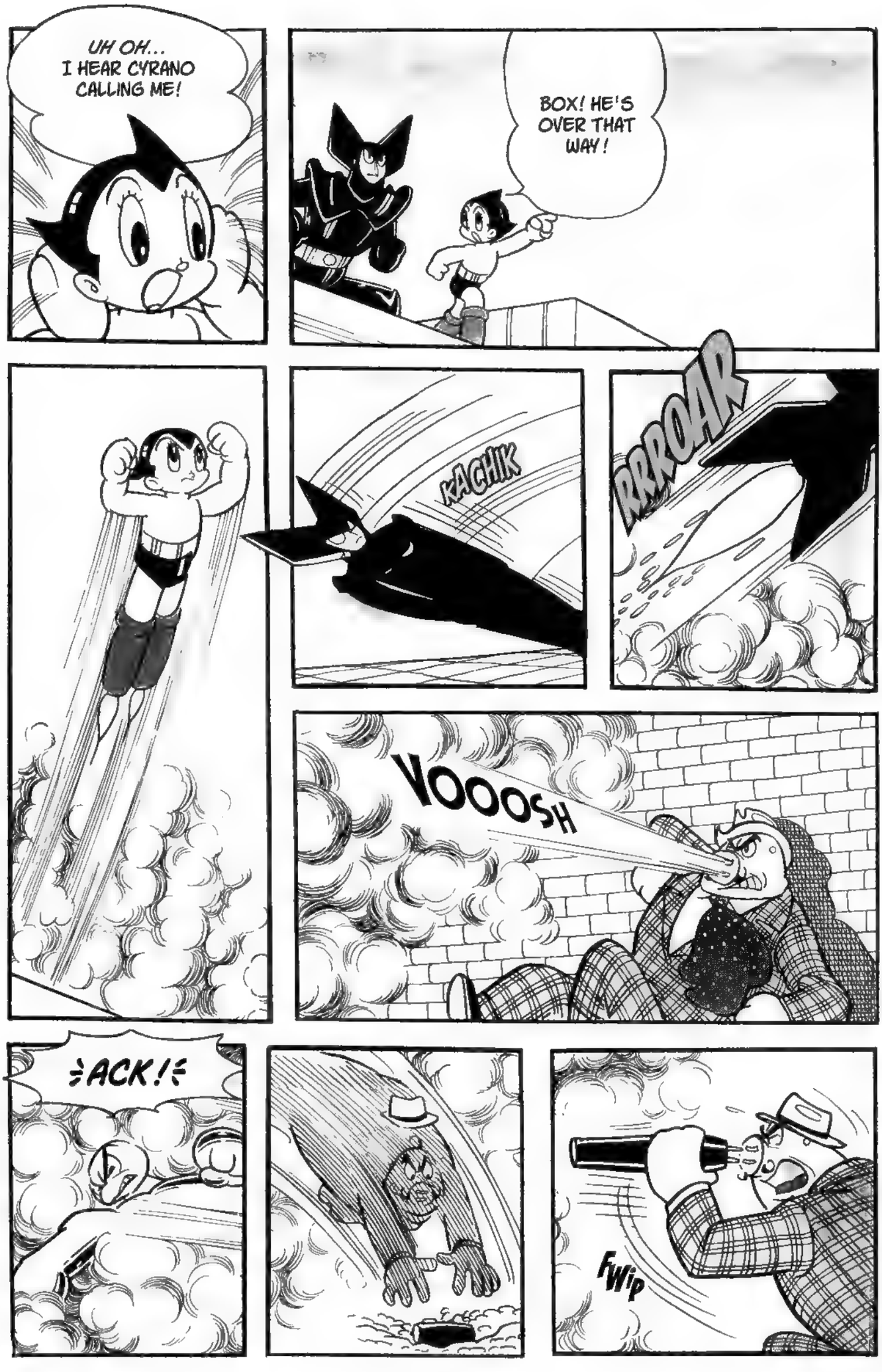
WHOA! YOU GUYS WILL BOWL ME OVER! GET IN LINE NOW!
HA HA! YAY!
HM... HE HATES ELECTRONICS SHOPS AND LOVES KIDS...
GIMME SOME CANDY, TOO, MR. ROBOT!
WHA?!
HEY, KID... HERE'S SOME CANDY...
IN EXCHANGE, I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR...
YOU KNOW THAT ROBOT GUY? I WANT YOU TO GO OVER TO HIM AND SUGGEST PLAYING HIDE 'N SEEK...
THE GAME?
YEAH... EASY, HUH? JUST DO AS I SAY NOW...
HOKAY ...

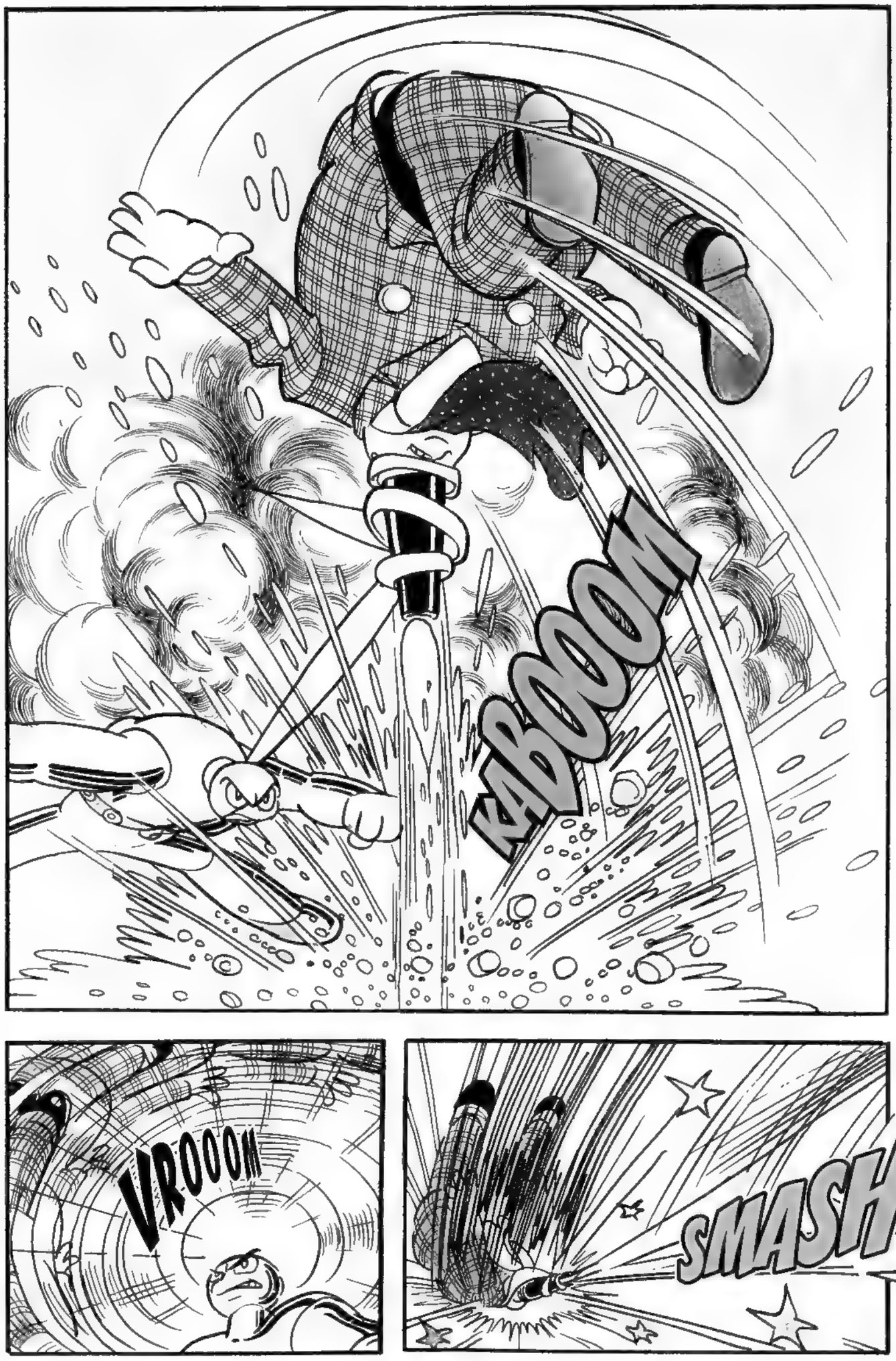
HEY, MR. ROBOT!! LET'S PLAY HIDE 'N SEEK!
HIDE 'N SEEK? I'M NO GOOD AT ZAT...
MY NOSE IS TOO GOOD. I KNOW WHERE PEOPLE ARE HIDING RIGHT AWAY...
BUT I WANNA PLAY HIDE 'N SEEK!!!
OKAY, OKAY... I'LL PUT SOME OF MY NOSES AWAY, THEN...
THIS WAY I WON'T BE ABLE TO SMELL ANYTHING, SO I CAN PLAY...
OKAY, KIDS! EVERYBODY HIDE WHILE I COUNT TO A HUNDRED!
ONE... TWO... THREE...
YAY
YAY
YAY

FIFTY...
FIFTY-ONE...
FIFTY-TWO...
CIGFR
T
RUPTCY
...ONE HUNDRED.
WHA ?!
A-ARE YOU A ROBOID ?!
INDEED, I AM... TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T SENSE ME COMING...
WHY YOU...
SLAP
HEH HEH HEH...


MAYBE I DID LET MY GUARD DOWN...
...BUT YOU ARE STILL DEALING WITH ME! WITH CYRANO!!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
SMASH

RATTLE
CLUNK
CHANK
AIEE!
A-AN ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER!!
I... I CAN'T STAND THOSE THINGS!
NO, PLEASE... STOP!
WELL, WELL... IZZATSO? HEH HEH...
ASTRO! HELP!

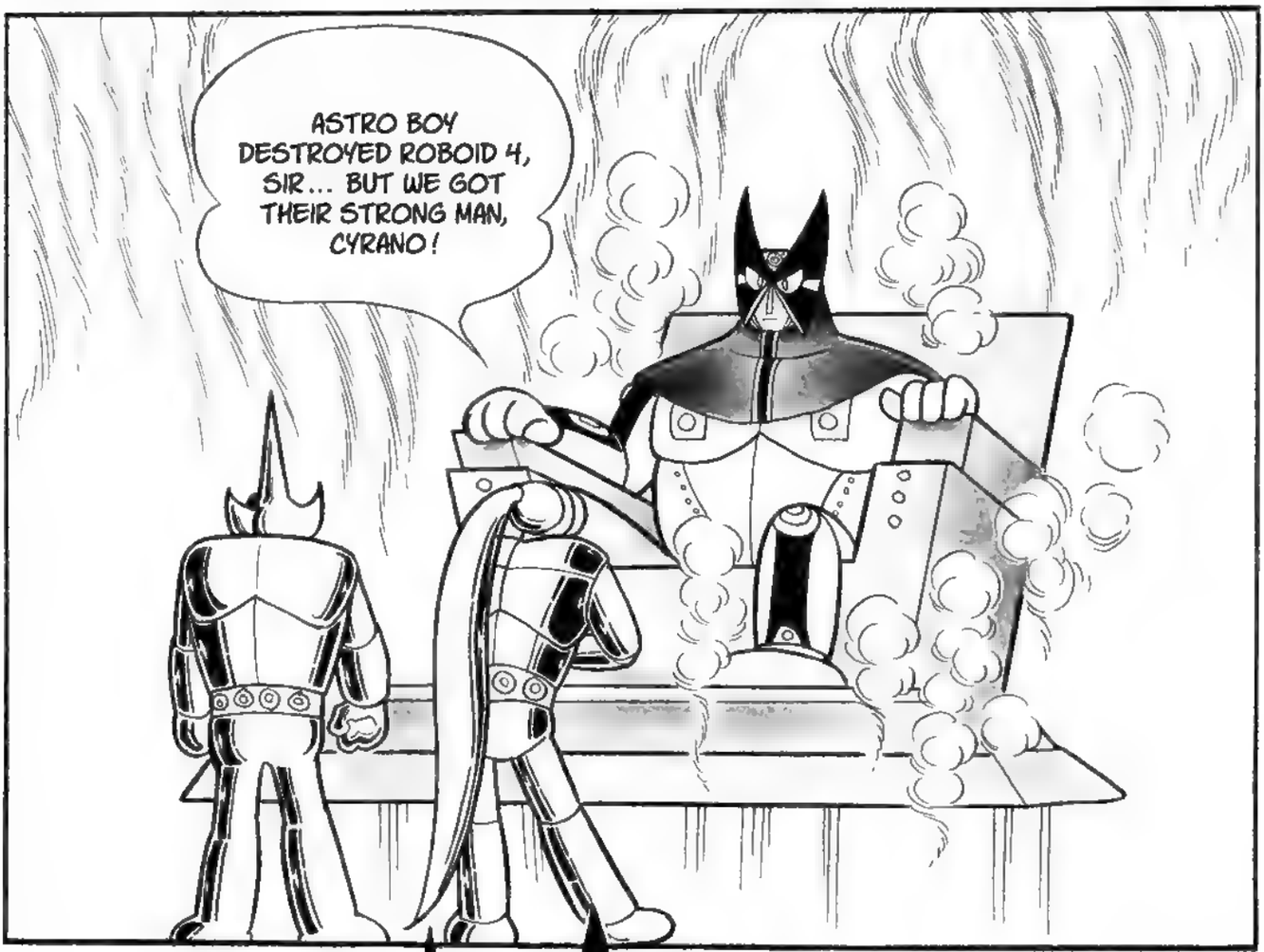

UH OH... I HEAR CYRANO CALLING ME!
BOX! HE'S OVER THAT WAY!
KACHIK
RRROAR
VOOOSH
=ACK!=
FWIP


KABOOM!
VROOOM
SMASH

NOW IT'S TWO AGAINST TWO....
IT'S RIGHT AROUND HERE...
LOOK! THERE'S CYRANO!
WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING?
HOW COME YOU'RE STILL STANDING LIKE THAT, MR. ROBOT?
YEAH, WE FINISHED PLAYING HIDE 'N SEEK...
YOU C'N LOOK NOW, MISTER!
HEY, CYRANO!
WHAT THE--?!
NOOO!!

HE'S BEEN SMASHED BY THOSE BLASTED ROBOIDS !!
GOSH... POOR CYRANO...
≒WAAH≒... ≒AAAH≒...
...IF ONLY I'D GOTTEN HERE EARLIER...
LOOK, ASTRO... LOOK AT THIS...
IT'S SOME COLOGNE AGENT CYRANO ALWAYS KEPT WITH HIM...
HE WAS KIND OF A DANDY, WASN'T HE...
IT'S EMPTY...
KNOW WHAT, ASTRO? I'LL BET HE THREW IT AWAY...
...AFTER HE DOUSED HIS OPPONENT!
IT'S A POWERFUL FRAGRANCE YOU COULD DETECT A LONG WAY AWAY...
CYRANO WAS TRYING TO TELL US TO TRACE THE SMELL!!
I GET IT... HE LEFT IT AS A MESSAGE TO US!
I'LL CONTACT MY COUNTRY'S INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND HAVE 'EM SEND OUT THREE GOOD ROBO-SNIFFER HOUNDS....

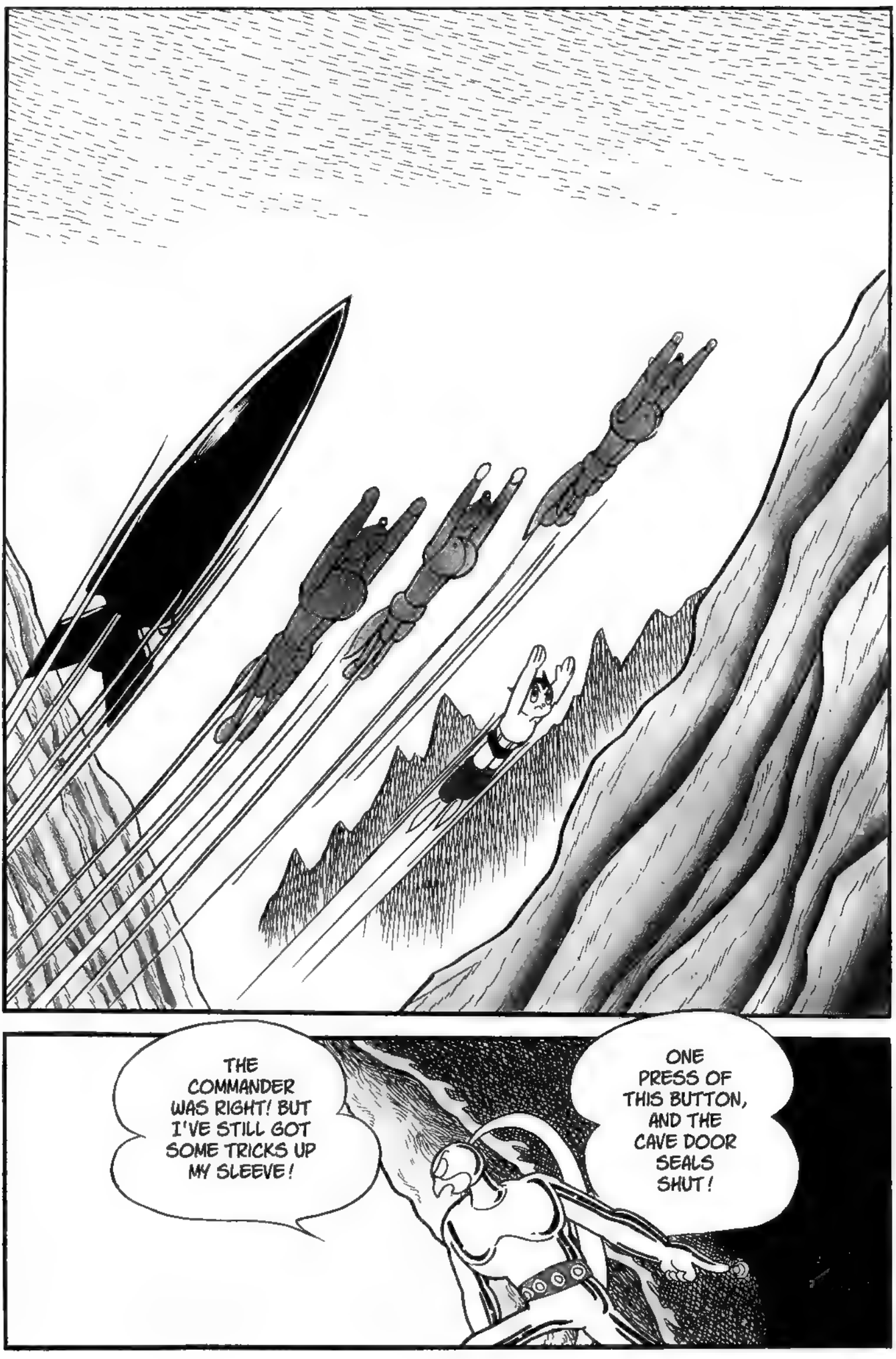
WITH THIS SMELL, THE ROBOIDS'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HIDE FROM US!

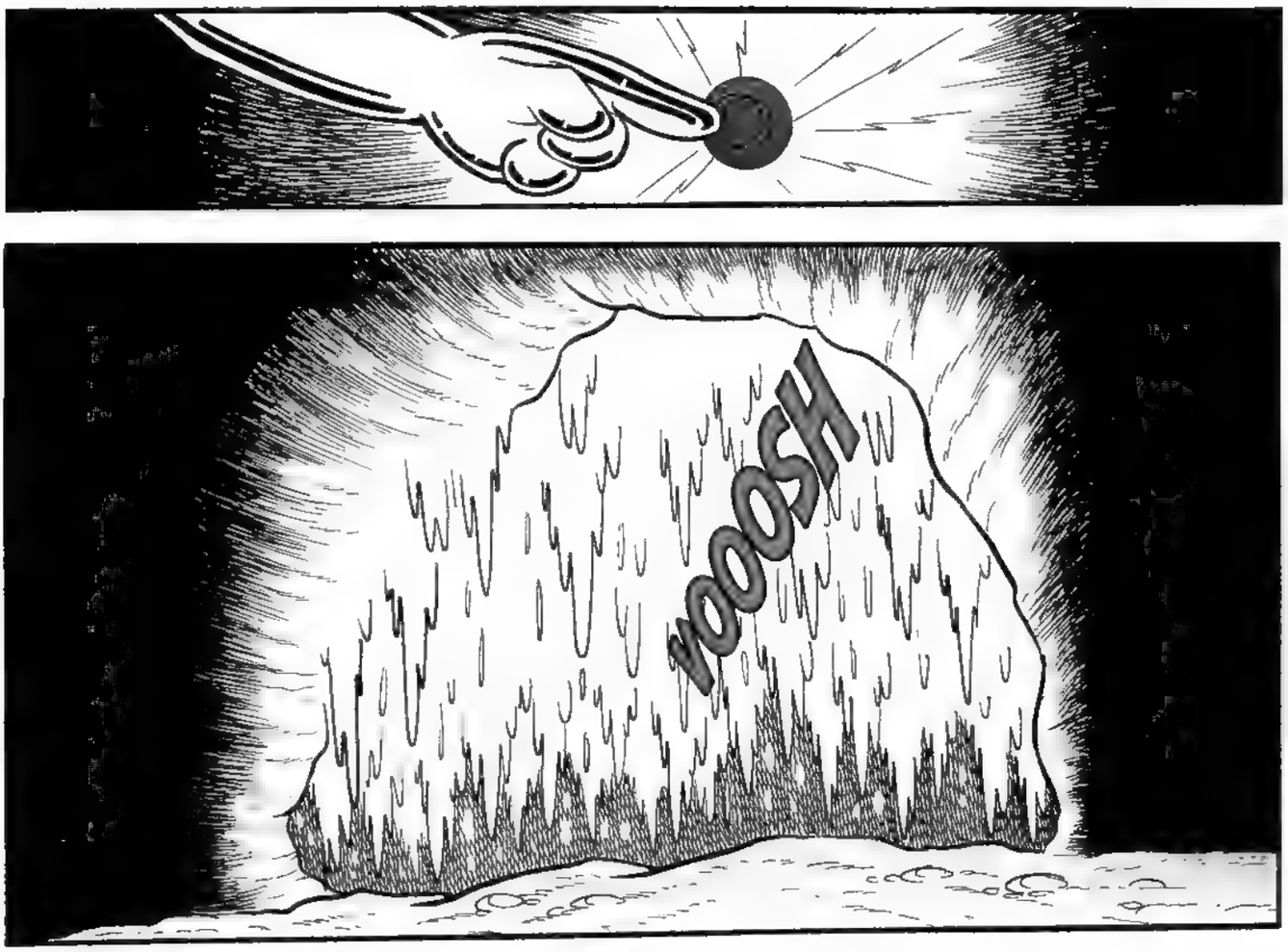

ASTRO BOY DESTROYED ROBOID 4, SIR... BUT WE GOT THEIR STRONG MAN, CYRANO!

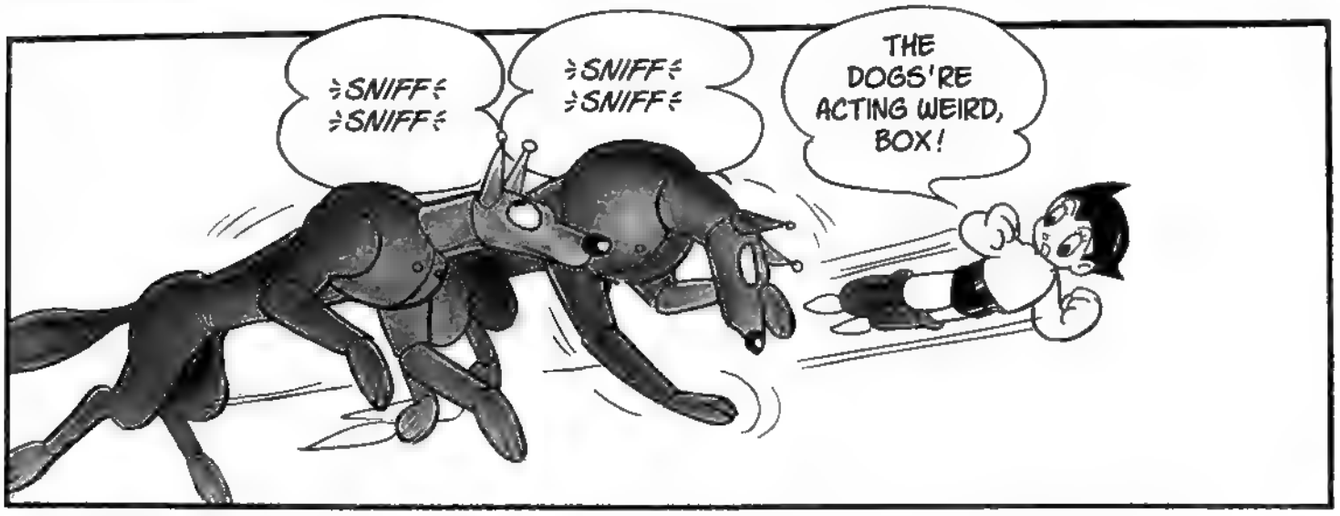
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!!

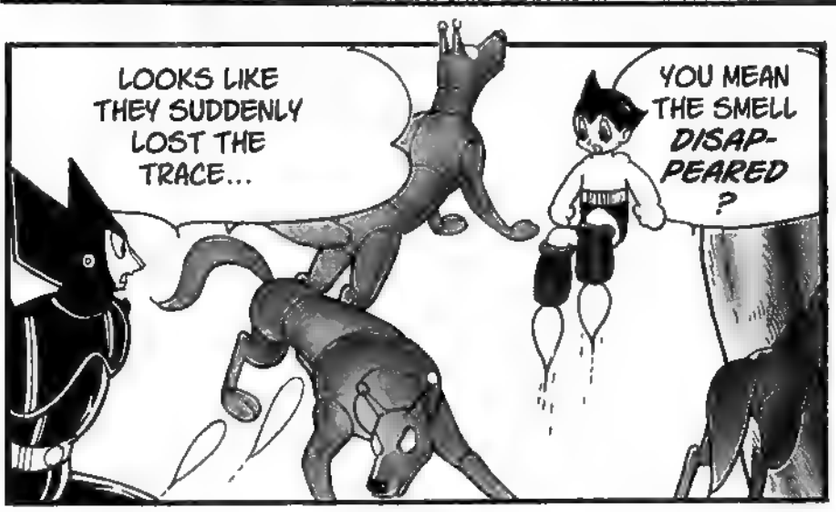
I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU *STINK* SO MUCH?!

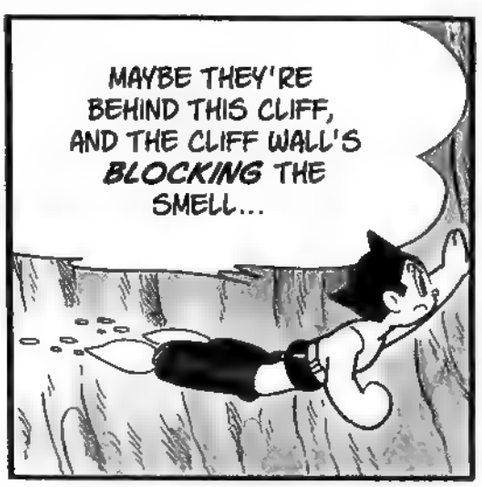
WHA ?!
YOU REEK TO HIGH HEAVEN!
I DO?
YOU IDIOT!! DIDN'T YOU LEARN HOW TO SMELL BEFORE COMING TO EARTH?!
YOU'RE WEARING WHAT EARTHLINGS CALL "COLOGNE"! IT'S SO STRONG A GOOD HOUND CAN EASILY TRACK YOU!
GO CHECK OUTSIDE, YOU FOOL! YOU'RE PROBABLY BEING TRAILED RIGHT NOW!
UH OH...


THE COMMANDER WAS RIGHT! BUT I'VE STILL GOT SOME TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE!
ONE PRESS OF THIS BUTTON, AND THE CAVE DOOR SEALS SHUT!

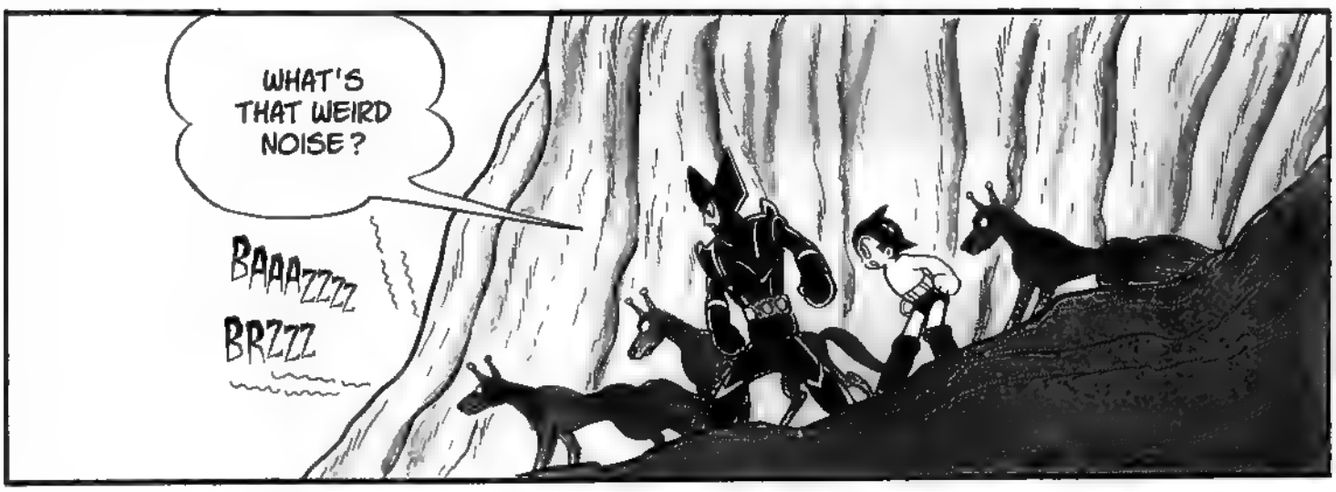

WOOOSH


SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF
THE DOGS'RE ACTING WEIRD, BOX!

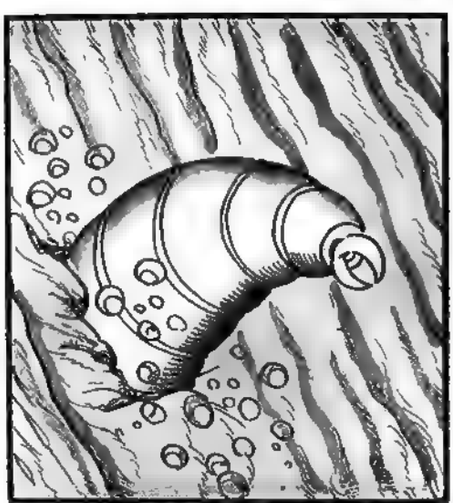

LOOKS LIKE THEY SUDDENLY LOST THE TRACE...
YOU MEAN THE SMELL DISAP-PEARED ?


MAYBE THEY'RE BEHIND THIS CLIFF, AND THE CLIFF WALL'S BLOCKING THE SMELL...

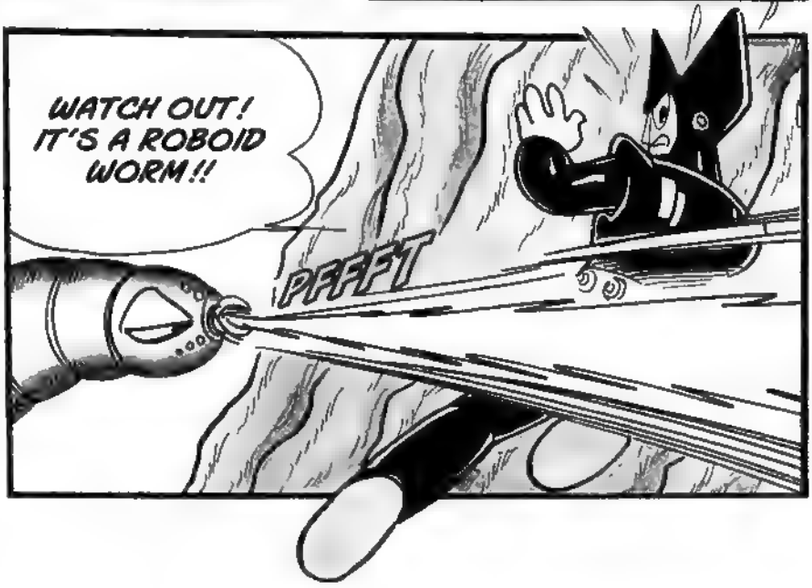
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE HEARD ROBOIDS CAN MELT CLIFF WALLS AND THEN INSTANTLY MAKE THEM SOLID AGAIN, ASTRO!
MAYBE THEY HEARD WE WERE COMING, AND THEY'RE HIDING BEHIND THIS WALL!

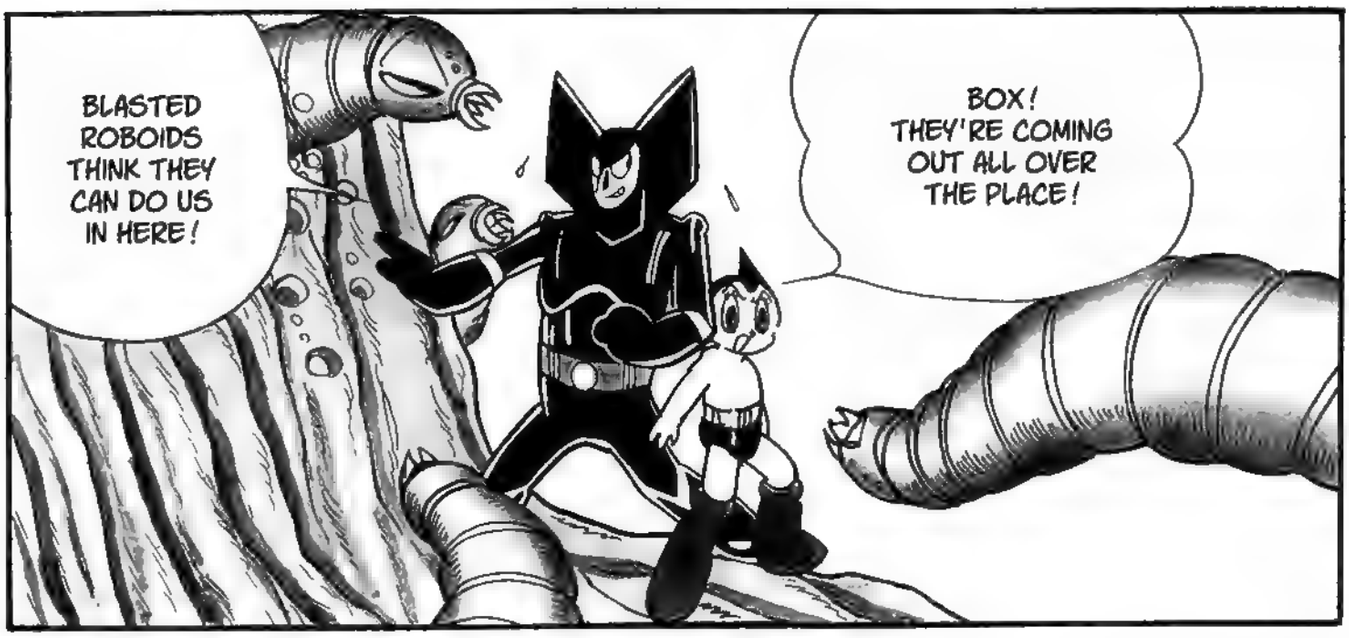

WHAT'S THAT WEIRD NOISE?
BAAAZZZZ
BRZZZ

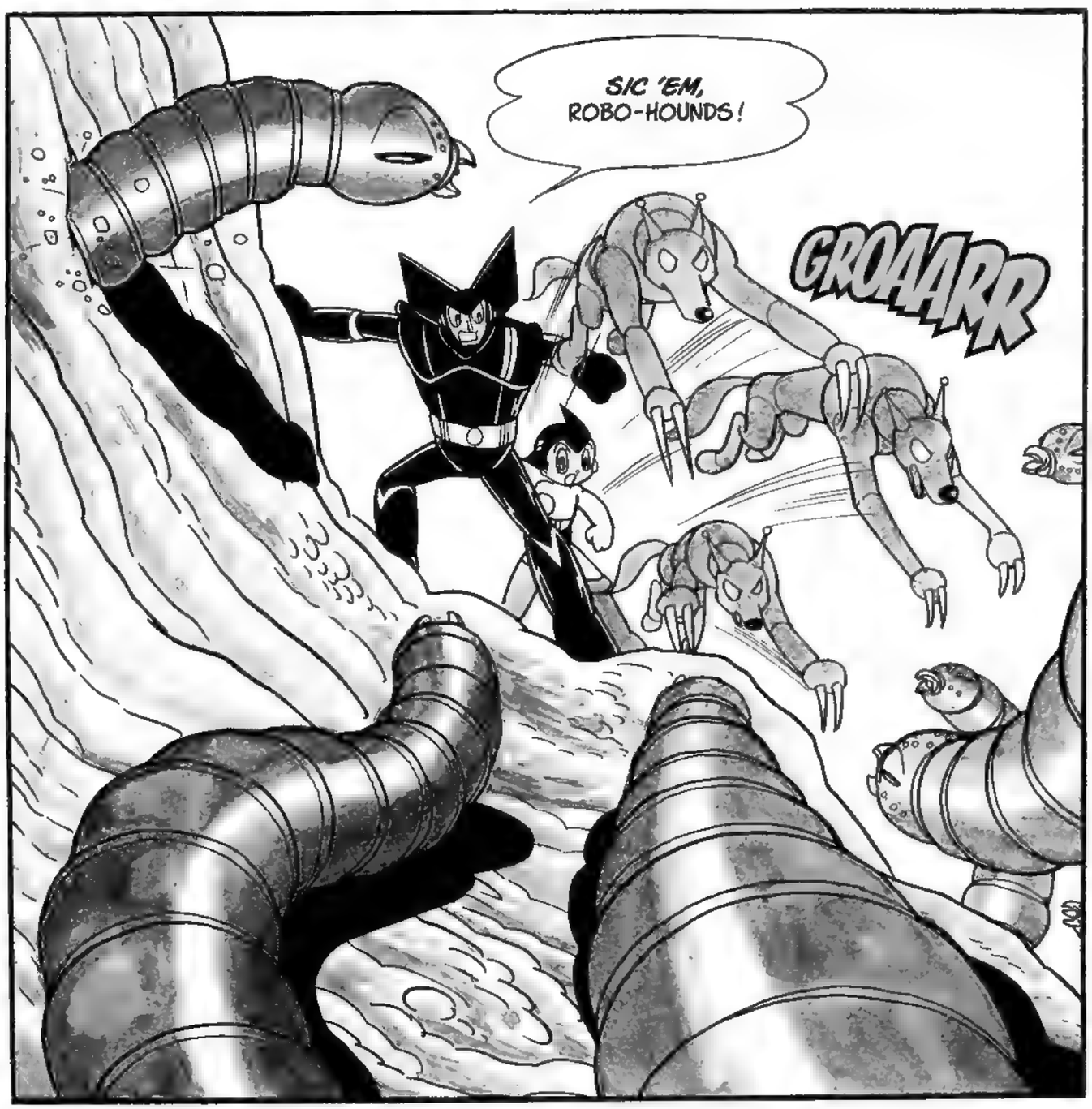
CAREFUL! SOMETHING'S COMING OUT!!

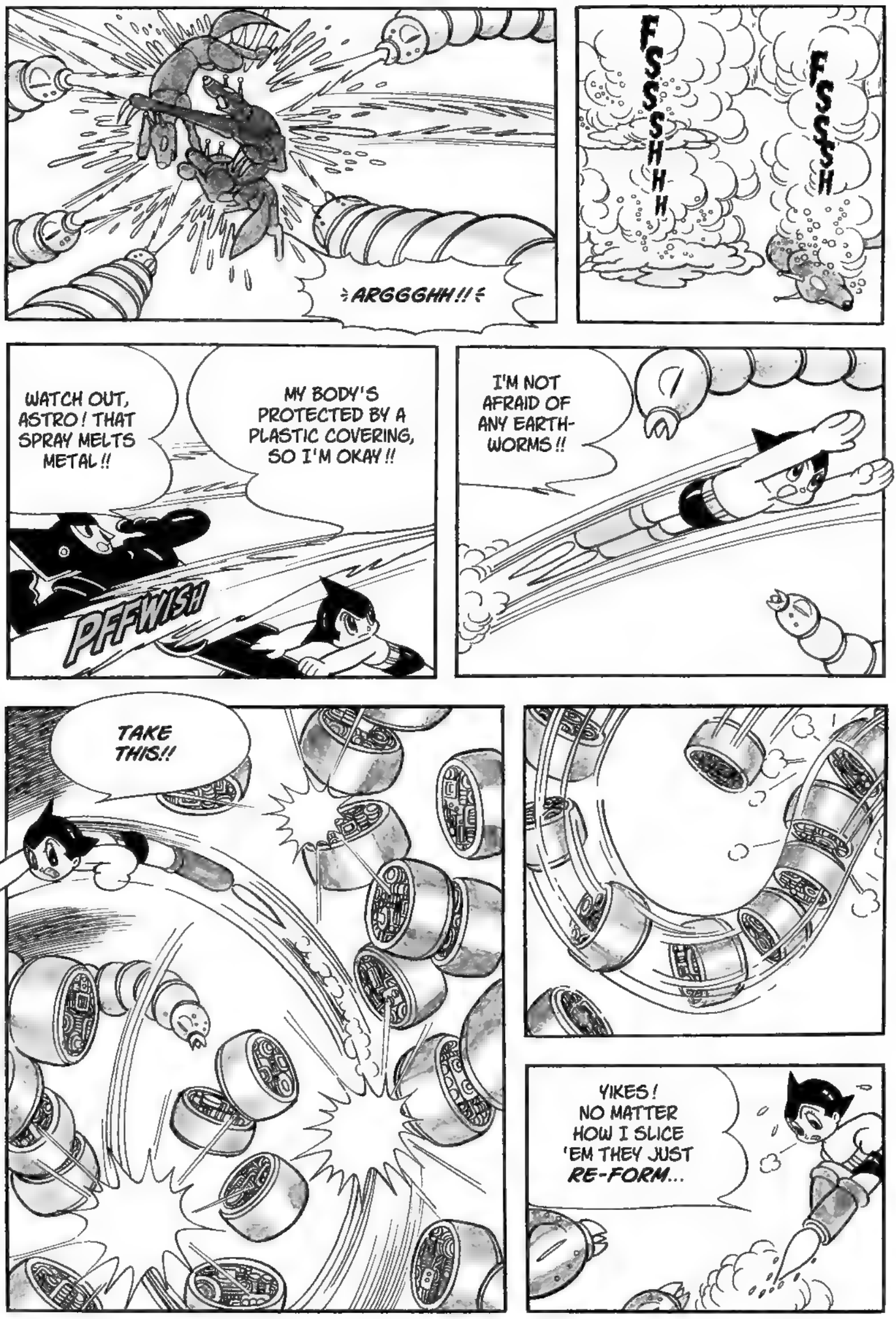


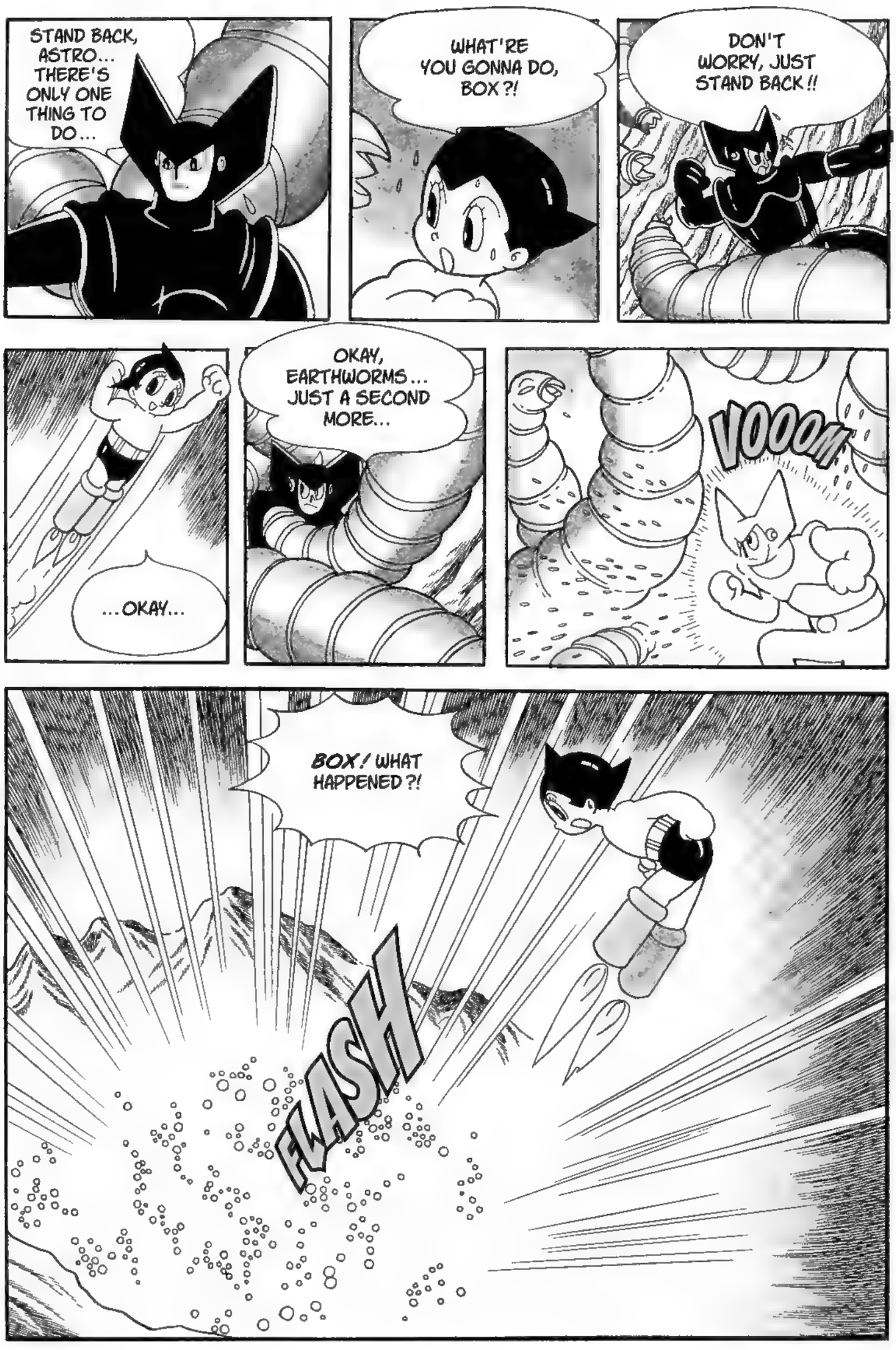
UH OH...
IT'S A GIANT EARTH-WORM!


WATCH OUT! IT'S A ROBOID WORM!!
PFFFT


BLASTED ROBOIDS THINK THEY CAN DO US IN HERE!
BOX! THEY'RE COMING OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE!


SIC 'EM, ROBO-HOUNDS!
GROAARR

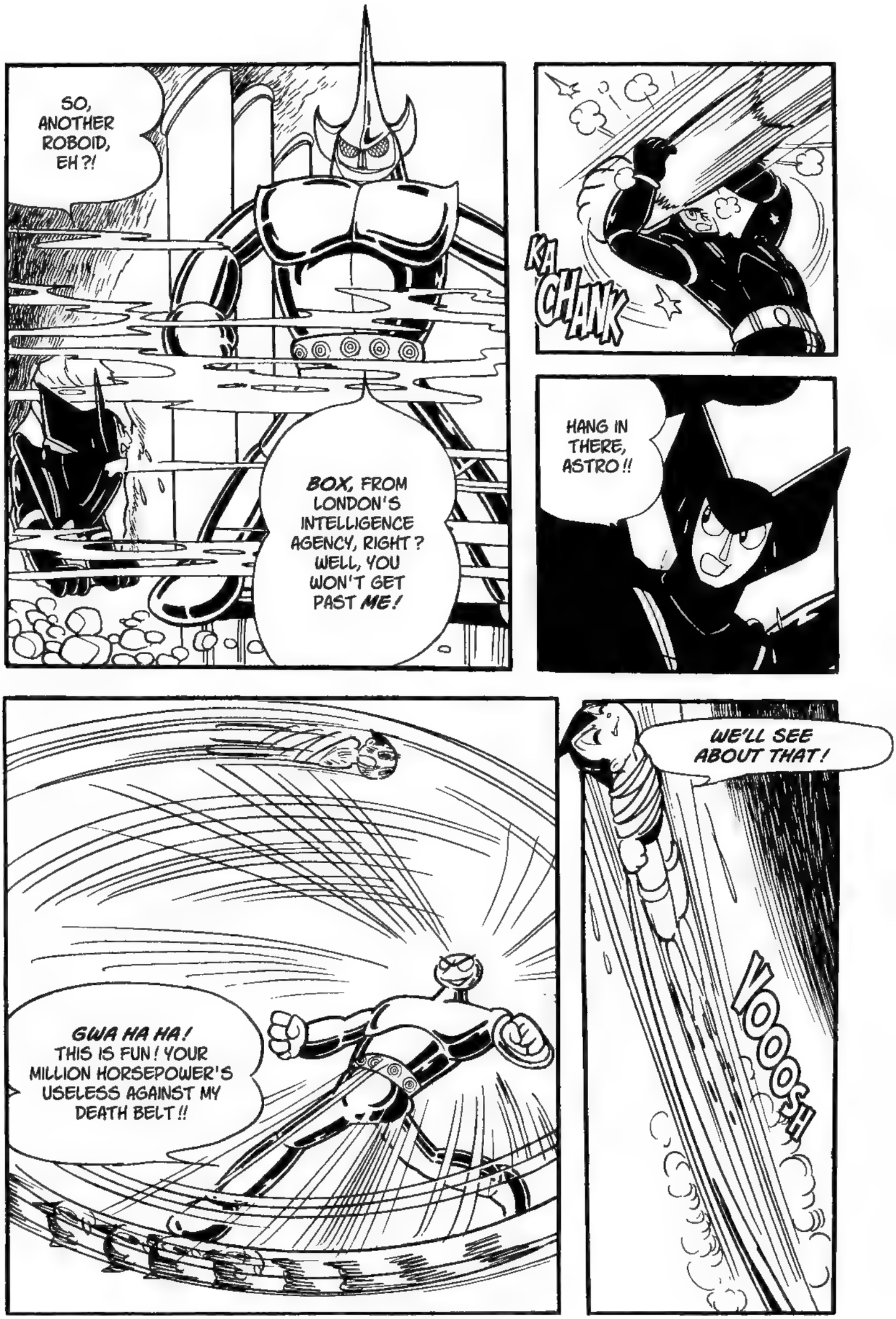

ARGGGHH!!
FSSSHHH
FSSSH
WATCH OUT, ASTRO! THAT SPRAY MELTS METAL!!
MY BODY'S PROTECTED BY A PLASTIC COVERING, SO I'M OKAY!!
PFFWISH
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANY EARTH-WORMS!!
TAKE THIS!!
YIKES! NO MATTER HOW I SLICE 'EM THEY JUST RE-FORM...

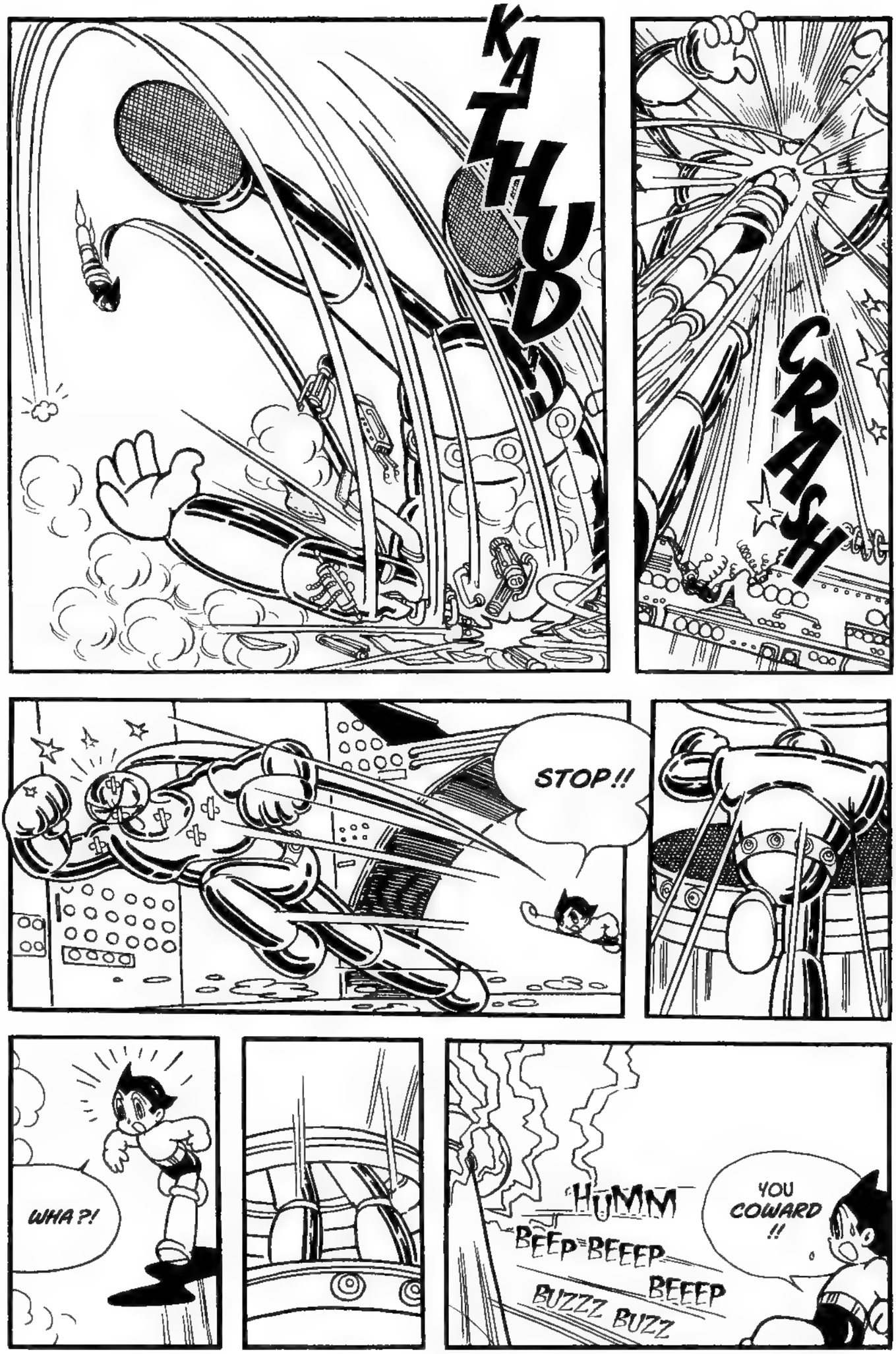

STAND BACK, ASTRO... THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, BOX?!
DON'T WORRY, JUST STAND BACK!!
...OKAY...
OKAY, EARTHWORMS... JUST A SECOND MORE...
VOOOM
BOX! WHAT HAPPENED?!
FLASH

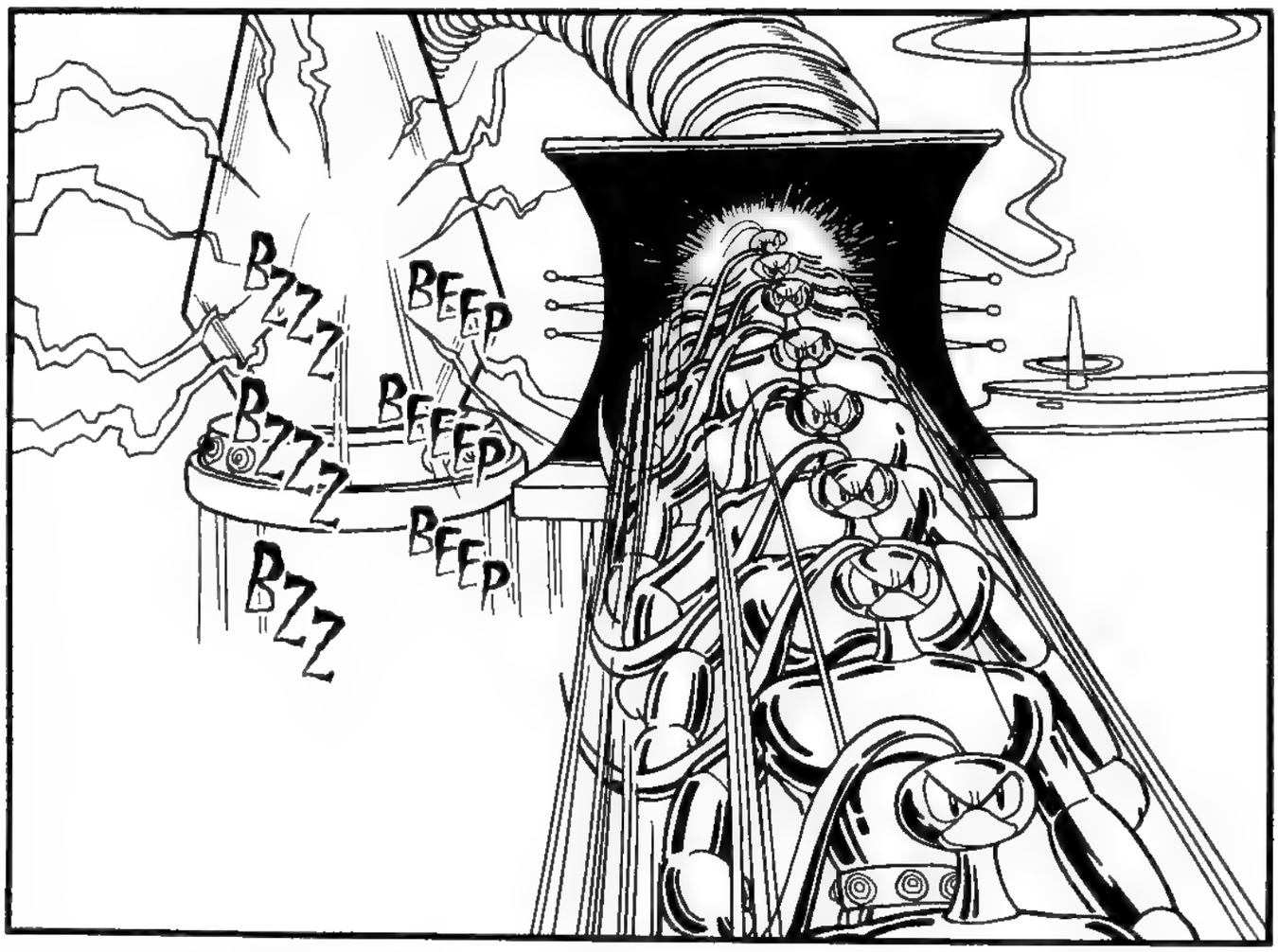
THE WORMS ALL MELTED AWAY!!
BUT WHERE'S BOX?!
AND THE CLIFF WALL OPENED!!
OVER HERE!
WHA?!
BOX! YOU'RE OKAY!! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D MELTED, TOO!
ME, MELT? HA HA...
I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE OFF THAT HEAT, ASTRO!!
I CAN GENERATE UP TO 3632° OF HEAT FOR AN INSTANT...
3632°?!
RIGHT. 'COURSE, I RARELY HAVE TO...
I'VE GOT THREE SECRET POWERS, ASTRO, BUT I CAN ONLY USE EACH ONE ONCE...
SO I JUST USED UP MY HEATING ABILITY...
YOU CAN ONLY USE 'EM ONCE?
RIGHT. AFTER USING ALL THREE, I HAVE TO DIE...

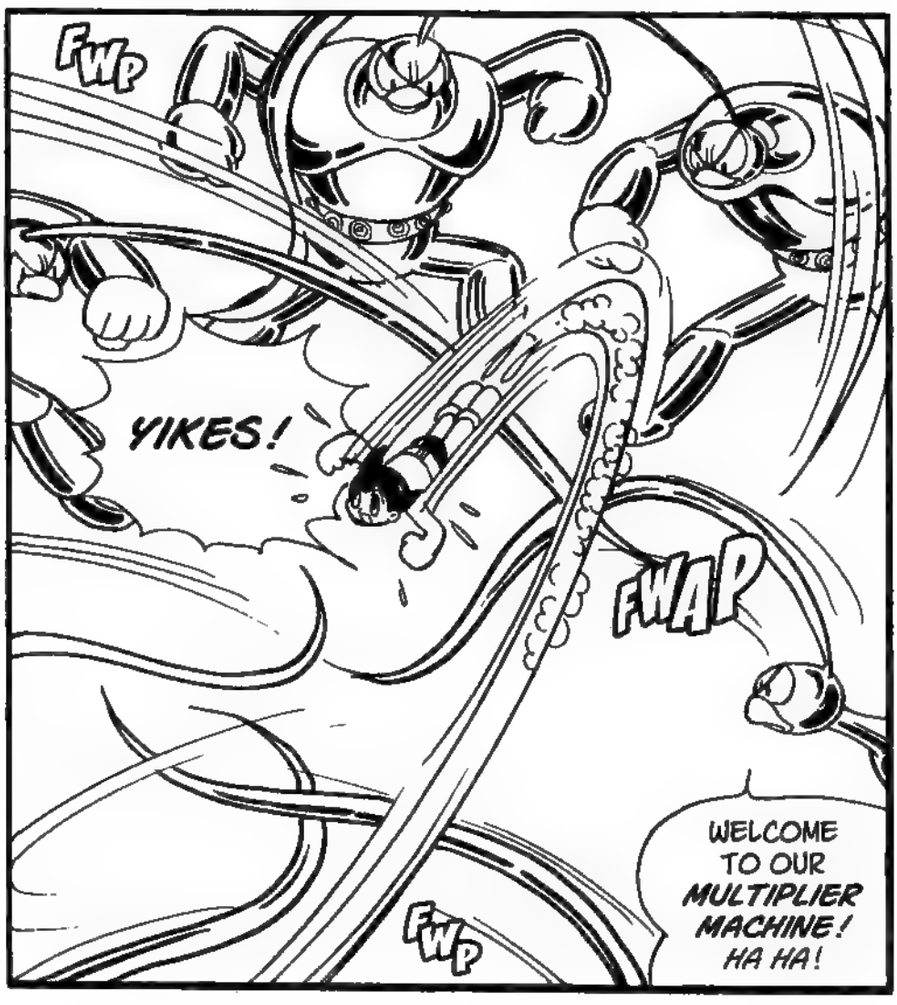
DIE?! DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, BOX!!
WELL, BUMBLE BEES ONLY GET TO USE THEIR STINGERS ONCE, AND THEN THEY DIE...
I'M LIKE THAT... WHEN I USE UP MY POWERS, I'M DONE FOR...
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, LOOK AT THIS CAVE THAT OPENED UP...
I'LL BET THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND THAT WALL THERE...
FLASH
TAKE THIS!!
POW
YIKES!

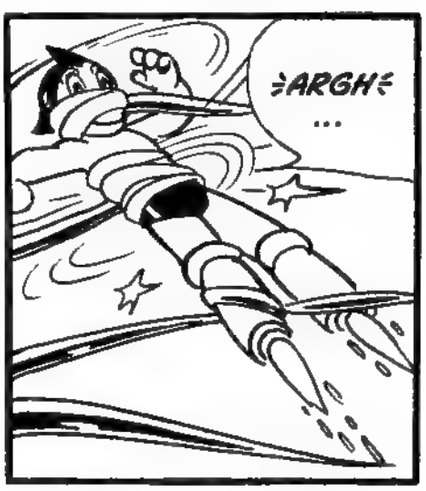
GWA HA HA HA!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, ASTRO BOY! WELCOME TO YOUR GRAVE!!
SMACK
WHAP
ASTRO!!
ZAAP

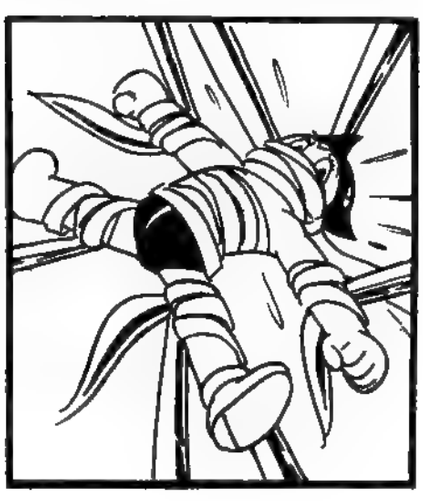

SO, ANOTHER ROBOID, EH?!
BOX, FROM LONDON'S INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, RIGHT? WELL, YOU WON'T GET PAST ME!
KA CHANK
HANG IN THERE, ASTRO!!
GWA HA HA! THIS IS FUN! YOUR MILLION HORSEPOWER'S USELESS AGAINST MY DEATH BELT!!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
VOOOSH


KATHUD
CRASH
STOP!!
WHA?!
HUMM
BEEP-BEEEP
BEEEP
BUZZZ BUZZ
YOU COWARD !!

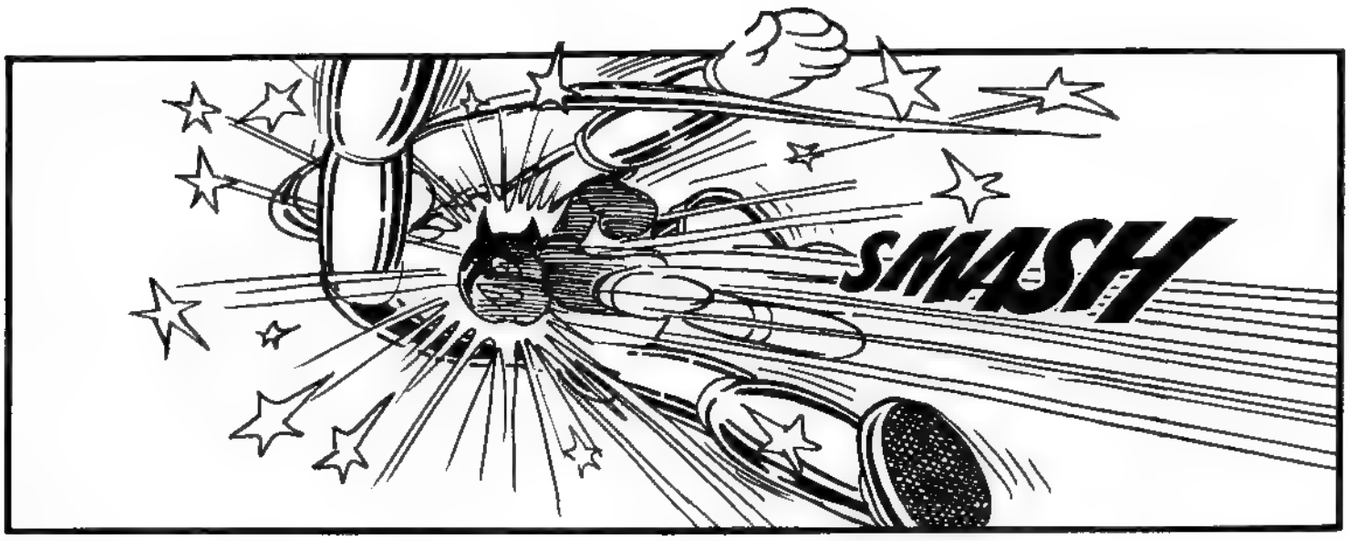

BZZZ
BEEP
BZZZ
BEEEP
BZZZ
BEEP
BZZ

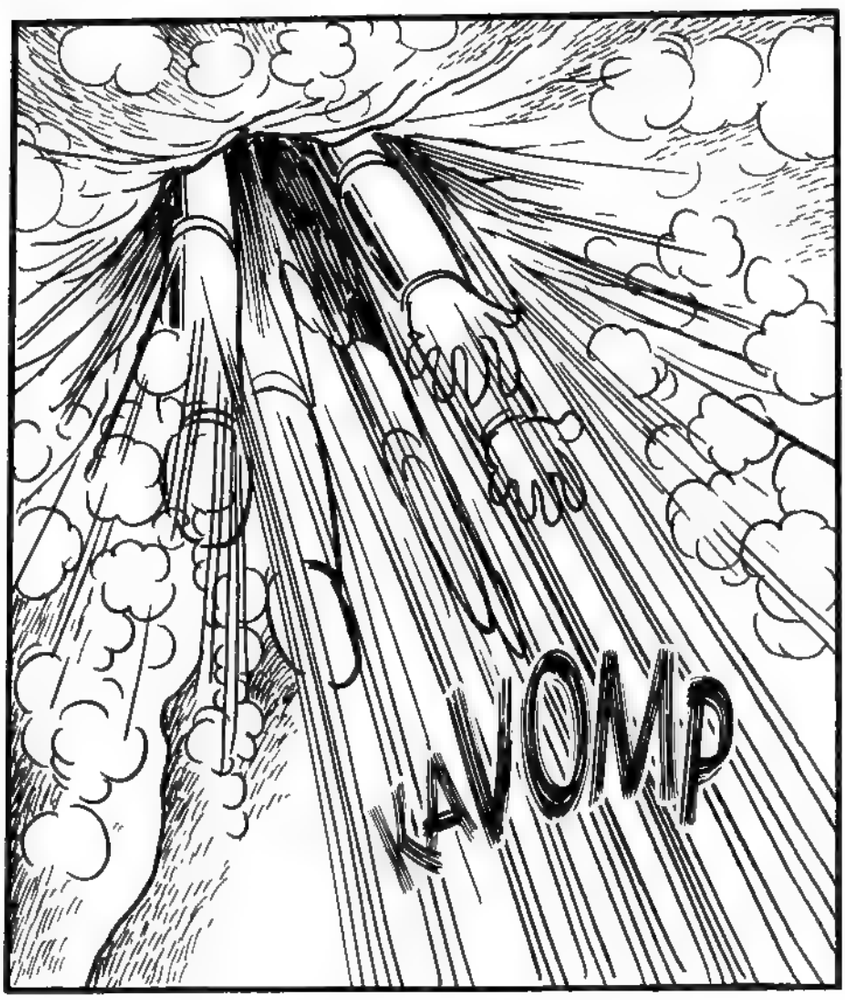

FWP
YIKES!
FWAP
FWP
WELCOME TO OUR MULTIPLIER MACHINE! HA HA!

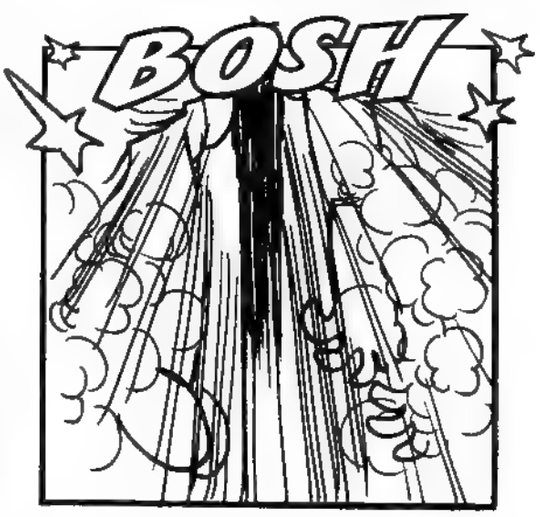

ARGH
...

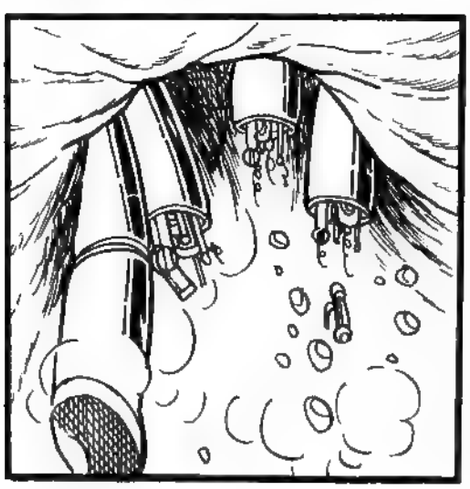


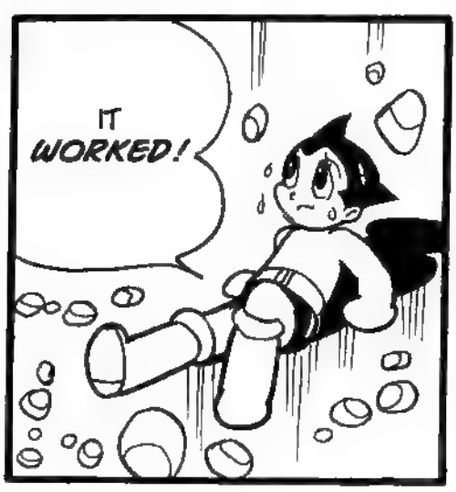
NOW TO RIP YOU TO SHREDS, ASTRO!
CHAK
SHOOTING US WON'T WORK, SUCKER!
I'VE GOT A DIFFER-ENT TARGET !!
KABASH
RATATATATATAT
KA BA BOOM
FSSHHH
FSHHW
UH OH...

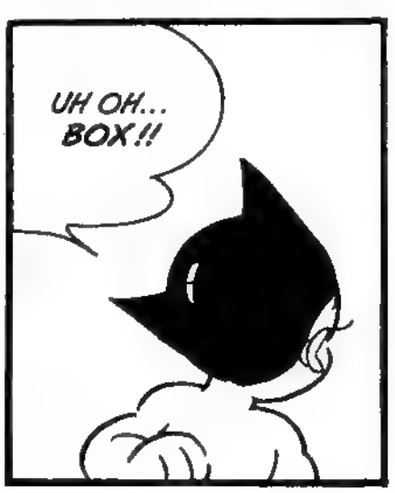

SMASH

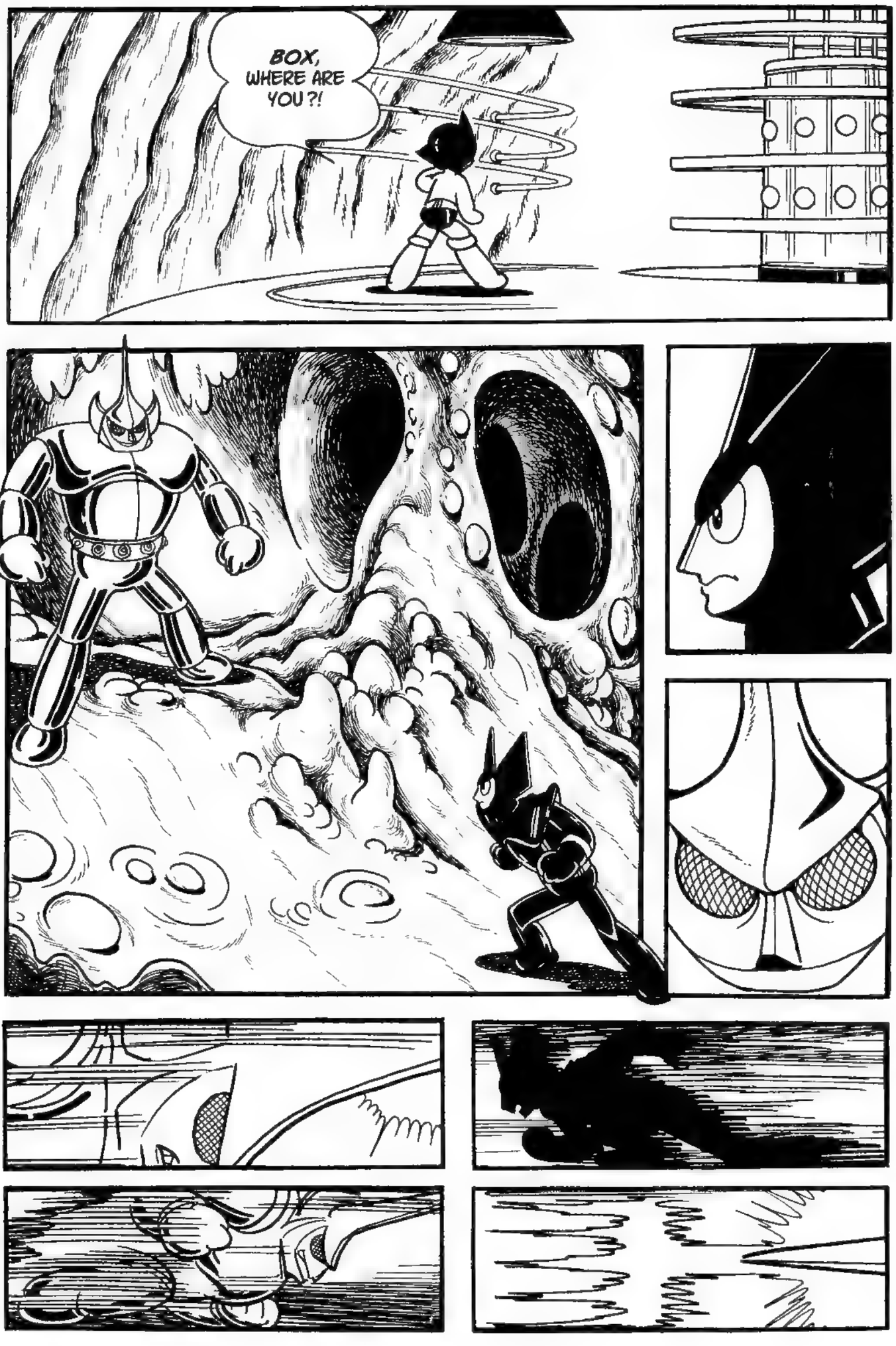

KAVOMP


BOSH




IT WORKED!

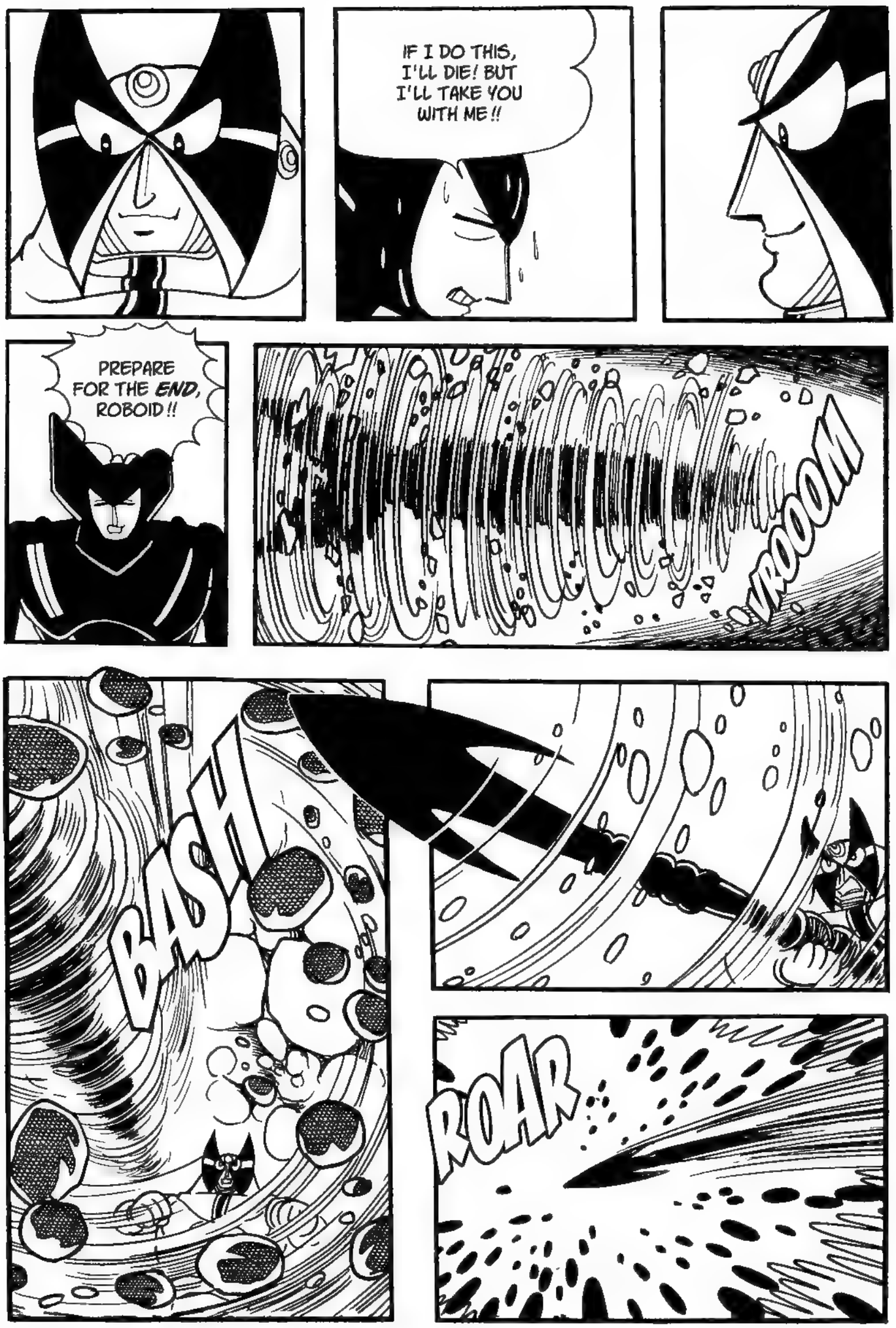

UH OH... BOX!!

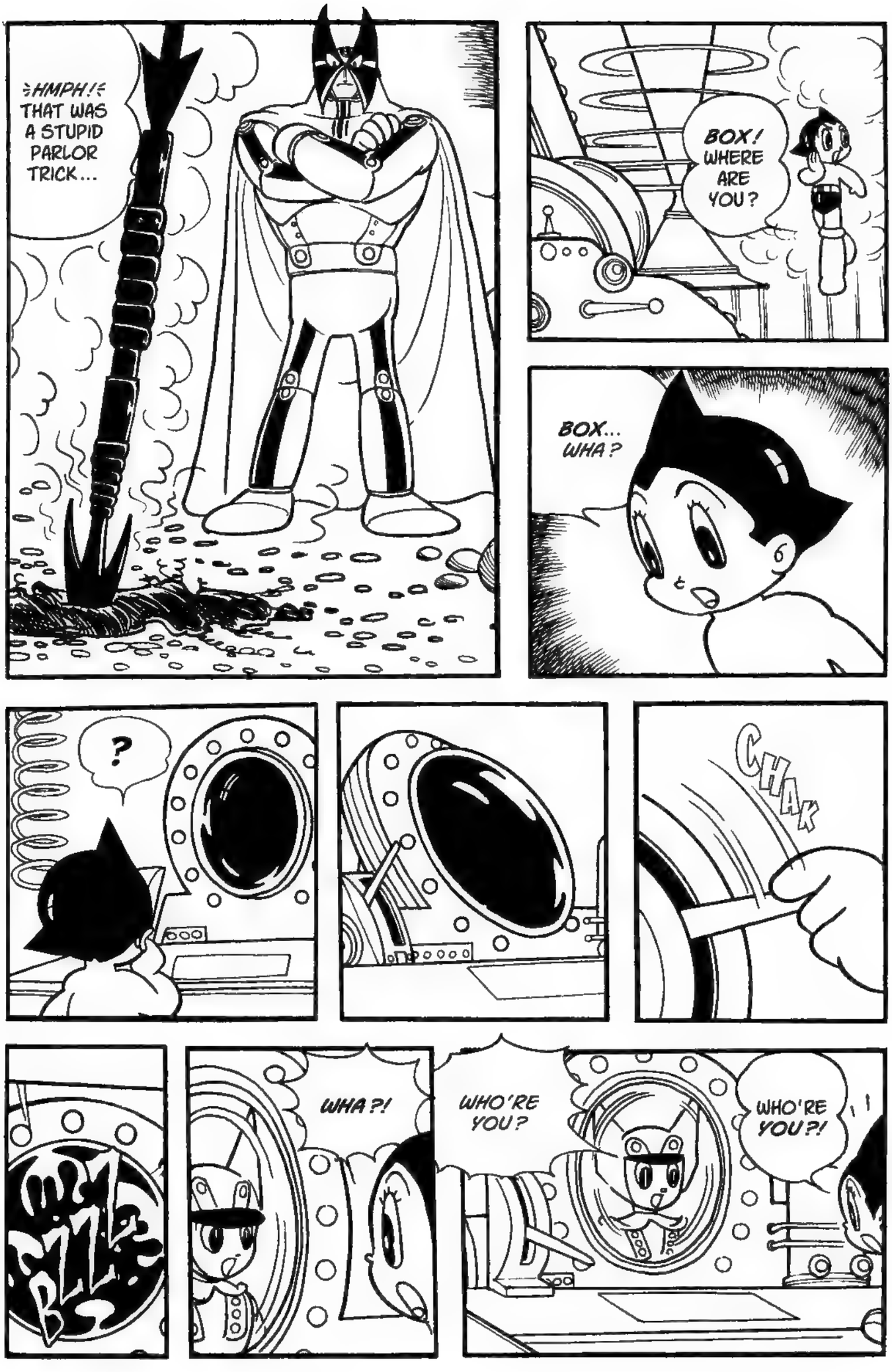

BOX, WHERE ARE YOU?!

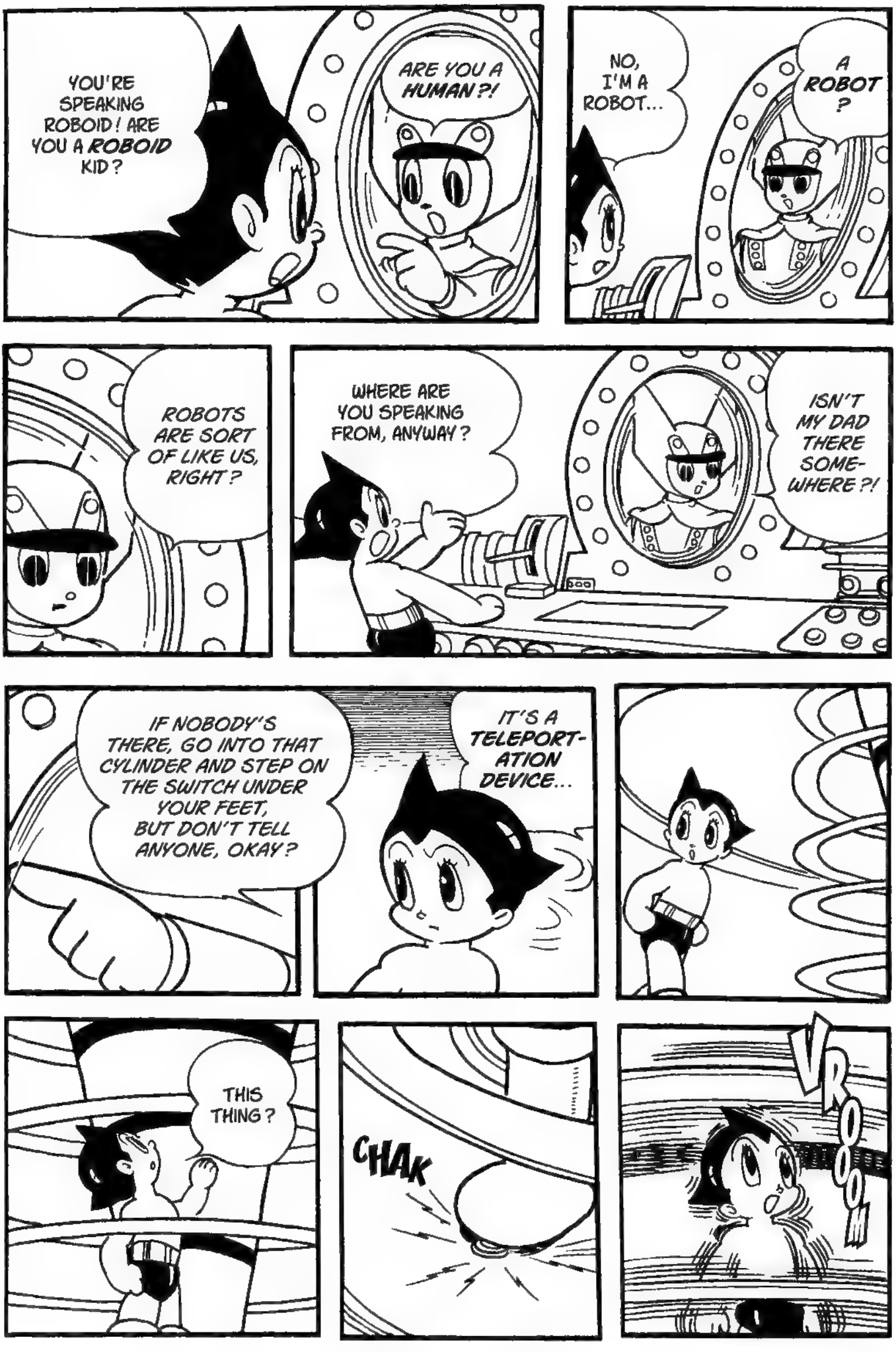
ZAP
ZAP
SEWWWP
BONK
BONK
BA
BOOM

I FINALLY GOT HIM!
BUT I HAD TO USE MY SECOND SECRET POWER!
NOW I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!!
...AND EVEN ROBOTS NEED TO SEE...
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE POWER LEFT!
...AND WHEN I USE IT, I'M FINISHED.
BUT AT LEAST WE GOT MOST OF THE ROBOIDS...
ARGH!!
WHO'S THERE? THAT YOU, ASTRO?!

HEH HEH HEH...
WHO IS IT? SAY SOMETHING!!
BLAST! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ROBOID!!
HE'LL FORCE ME TO USE MY FINAL POWER!!

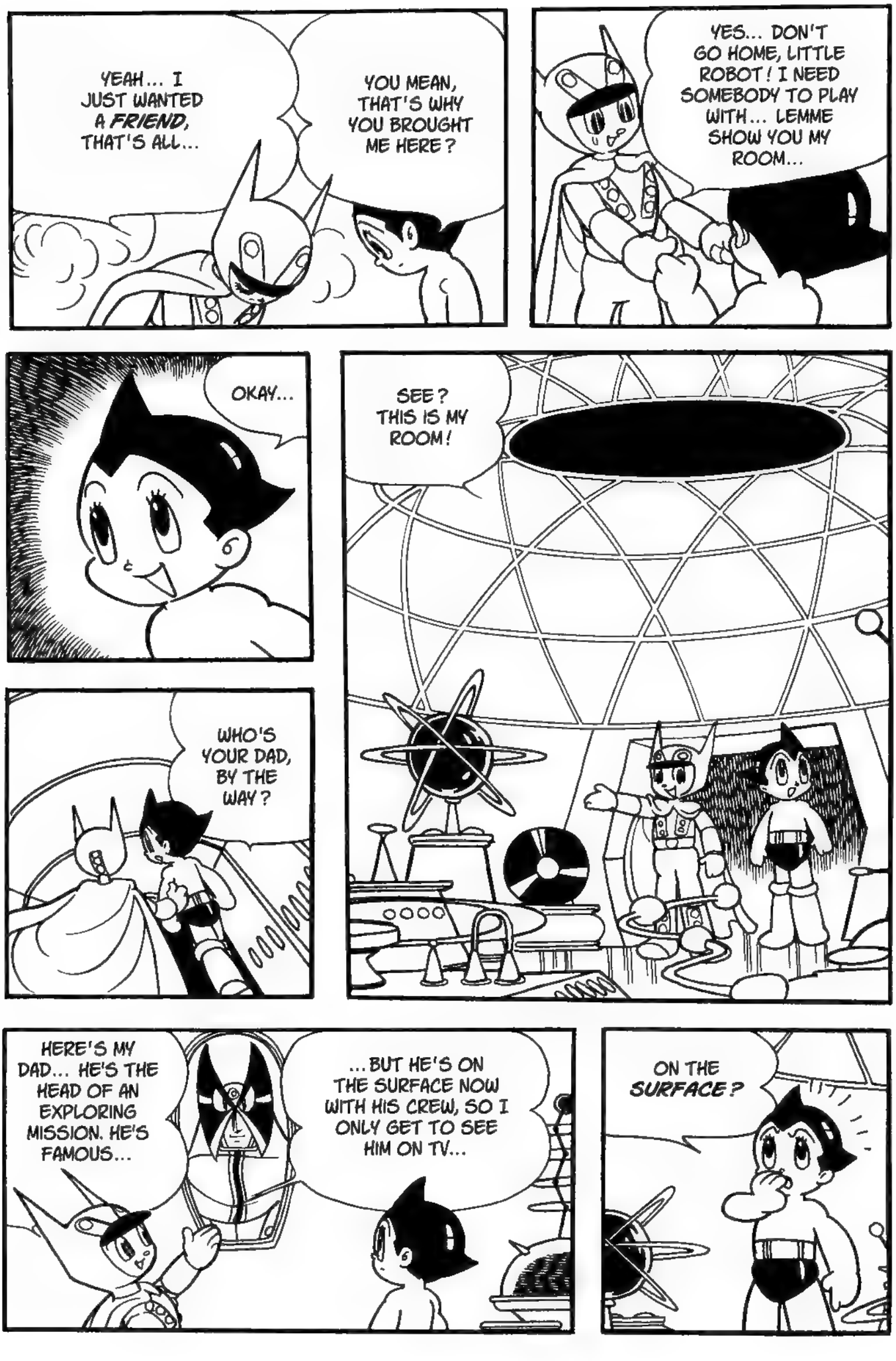

IF I DO THIS, I'LL DIE! BUT I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME!!
PREPARE FOR THE *END*, ROBOID!!
VROOOM
BASH
ROAR


≒HMPH!≒ THAT WAS A STUPID PARLOR TRICK...
BOX! WHERE ARE YOU?
BOX... WHA?
?
CHAK
WHA?!
WHO'RE YOU?
WHO'RE YOU?!


YOU'RE SPEAKING ROBOID! ARE YOU A ROBOID KID?
ARE YOU A HUMAN?!
NO, I'M A ROBOT...
A ROBOT?
ROBOTS ARE SORT OF LIKE US, RIGHT?
WHERE ARE YOU SPEAKING FROM, ANYWAY?
ISN'T MY DAD THERE SOME-WHERE?!
IF NOBODY'S THERE, GO INTO THAT CYLINDER AND STEP ON THE SWITCH UNDER YOUR FEET, BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?
IT'S A TELEPORT-ATION DEVICE...
THIS THING?
CHAK
VROOM

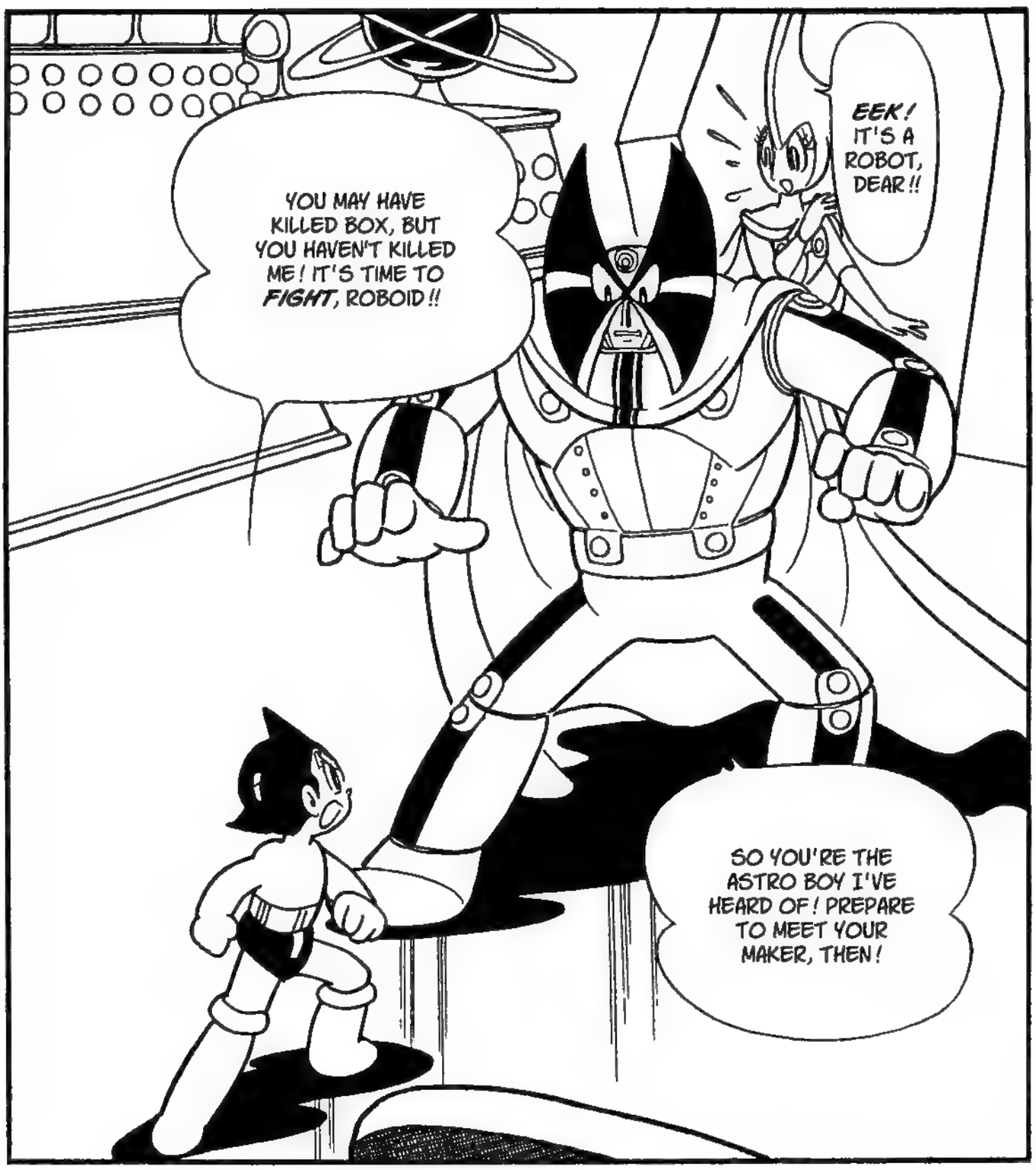
HUMMMMM
SCREEE
FSSSHH
THE PRESSURE AN' TEMPER-ATURE'S SO HIGH HERE...
MUST BE REALLY DEEP UNDER-GROUND...
HAH HAH! YOU CAME!!
WHA?!
YOU SURE FELL INTO THAT TRAP EASILY!!
TRAP?!

YOU GOT HERE ON A MATTER TRANSPORTER, BUT YOU CAN'T GO HOME UNLESS I SHOW YOU HOW!!
BETTER GIVE UP! YOU'RE MY PRISONER NOW!
BUT WHY?
HAH HAH HAH!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
HMPH...
HEY, WAIT!!
I'M JUST LONELY, THAT'S ALL...
LONELY?

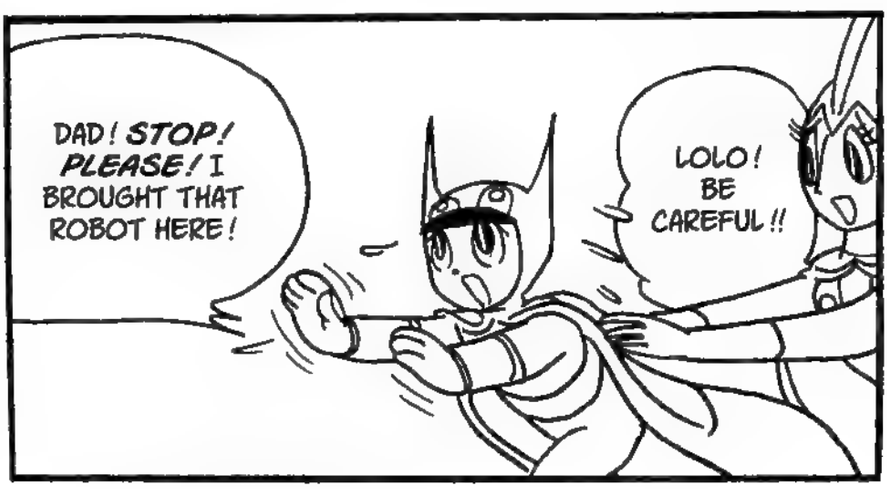

YEAH... I JUST WANTED A *FRIEND*, THAT'S ALL...
YOU MEAN, THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?
YES... DON'T GO HOME, LITTLE ROBOT! I NEED SOMEBODY TO PLAY WITH... LEMME SHOW YOU MY ROOM...
OKAY...
SEE? THIS IS MY ROOM!
WHO'S YOUR DAD, BY THE WAY?
HERE'S MY DAD... HE'S THE HEAD OF AN EXPLORING MISSION. HE'S FAMOUS...
...BUT HE'S ON THE SURFACE NOW WITH HIS CREW, SO I ONLY GET TO SEE HIM ON TV...
ON THE *SURFACE*?

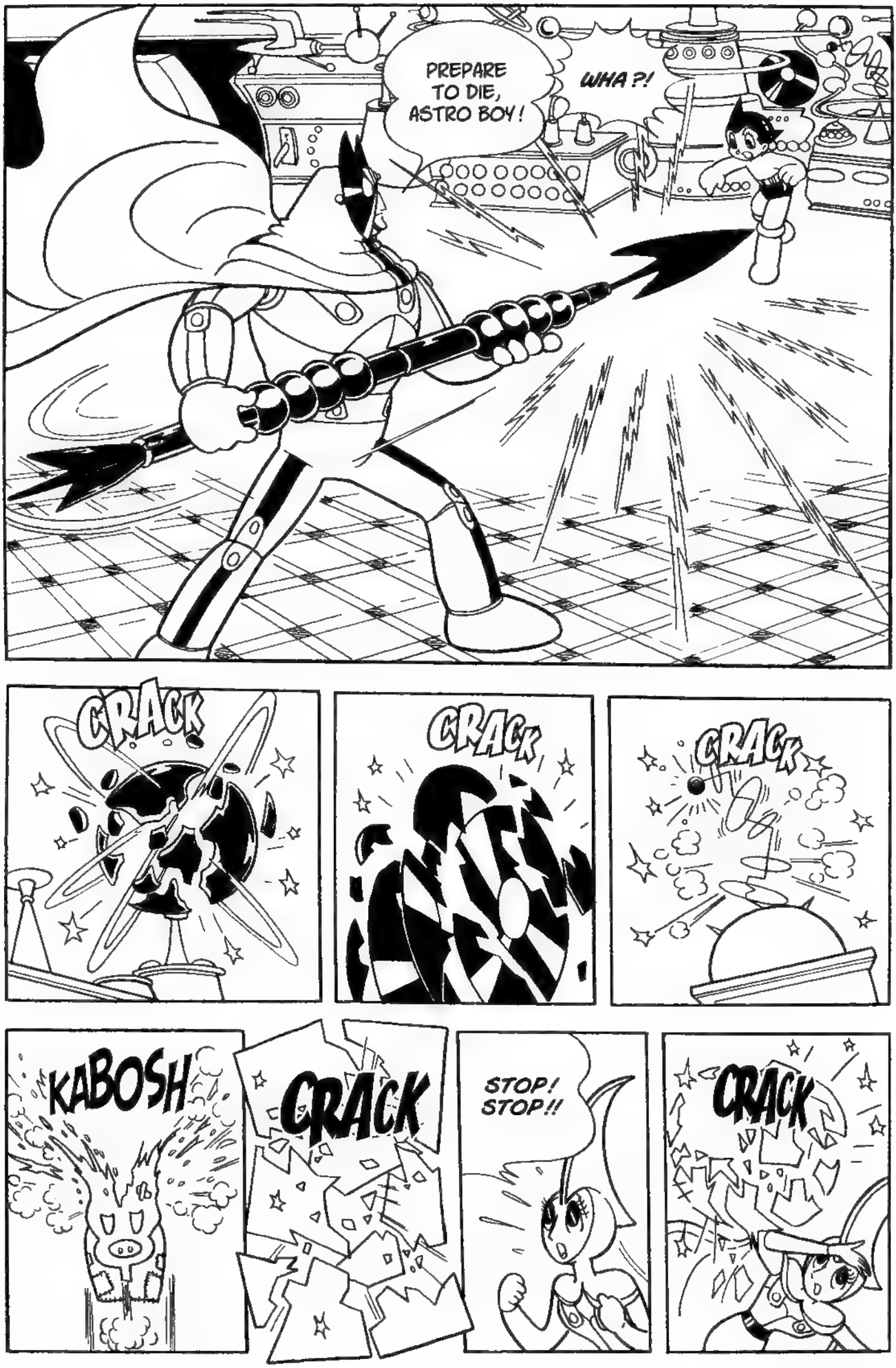
HMM... I DON'T REMEMBER A ROBOID LIKE THAT... NOT AMONG THE GANG OF FIVE I FOUGHT...
WANNA SEE A BOOK? THIS ONE'S MINE. IT'S GOT LOTS OF INFORMATION ON EARTH IN IT...
YOU LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS...
IF YOU BEAM LIGHT AT IT, THE STUFF WRITTEN ON IT REFLECTS BACK...
B
WHA?
MY MOM MUST BE COMING BACK!
QUICK... YOU'VE GOTTA HIDE IN HERE...
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D COME HOME SO SUDDENLY, DEAR...
I THOUGHT I'D REST A BIT AT HOME, AND THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT...
I JUST LOST ALL FIVE OF MY TEAM MEMBERS, AFTER ALL...

DAD, YOU'RE BACK...
HI, LOLO... HOW'VE YOU BEEN, SON?
BEEN HOLDING THE FORT FOR ME, EH? SORRY I DIDN'T BRING YOU A PRESENT, BUT INSTEAD....
...I'LL TELL YOU A GREAT STORY...
...ABOUT HOW I DESTROYED A REALLY POWERFUL ROBOT NAMED BOX!
WHAT?! BOX WAS DESTROYED?!
LOLO! WHO'S IN THERE!?
IT'S ME! ASTRO BOY!!

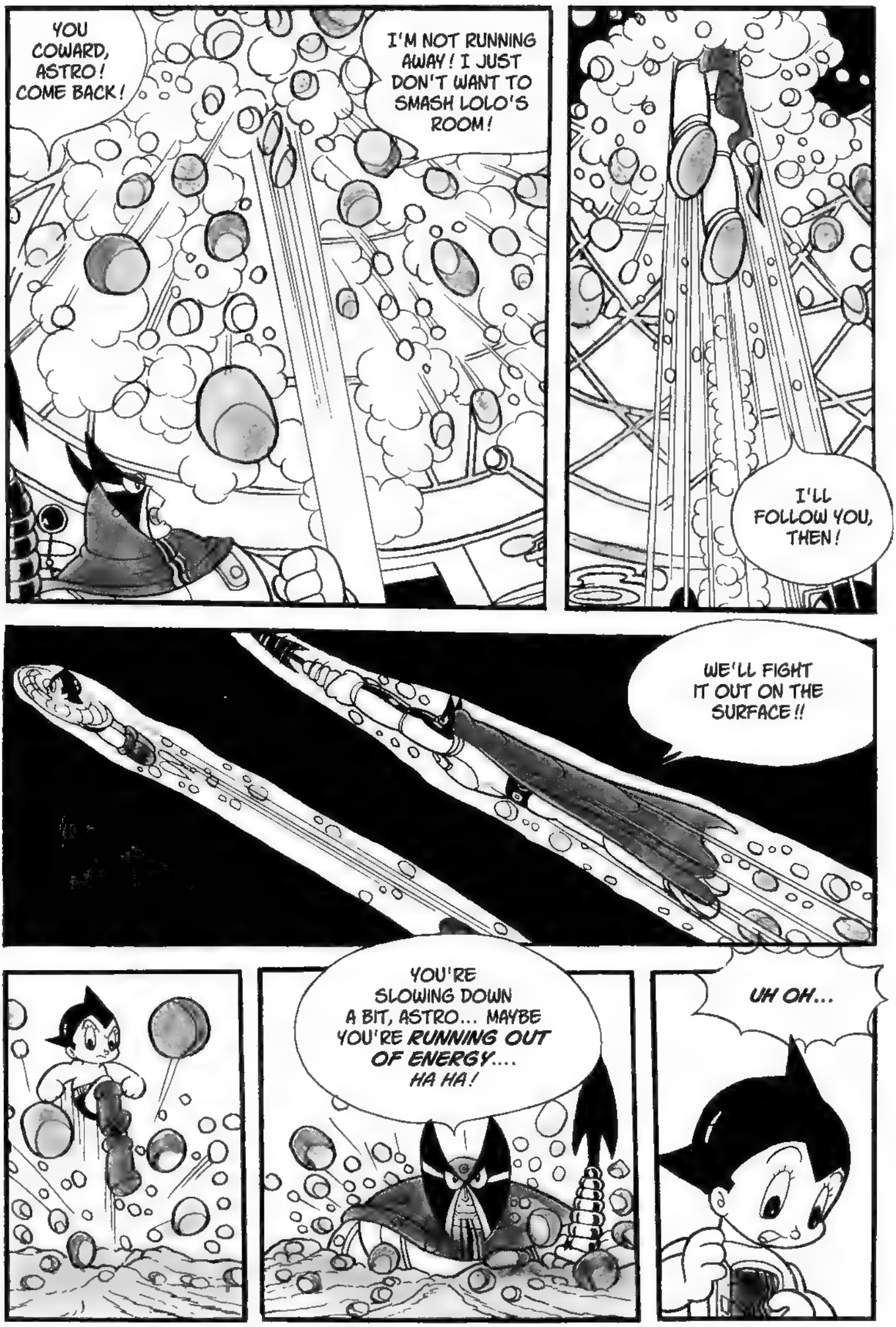

EEK! IT'S A ROBOT, DEAR!!
YOU MAY HAVE KILLED BOX, BUT YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ME! IT'S TIME TO *FIGHT*, ROBOID!!
SO YOU'RE THE ASTRO BOY I'VE HEARD OF! PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, THEN!

I KNOW YOU'RE A ROBOID COMMANDER, BUT THAT WON'T HELP YOU NOW!


DAD! *STOP! PLEASE!* I BROUGHT THAT ROBOT HERE!
LOLO! BE CAREFUL!!

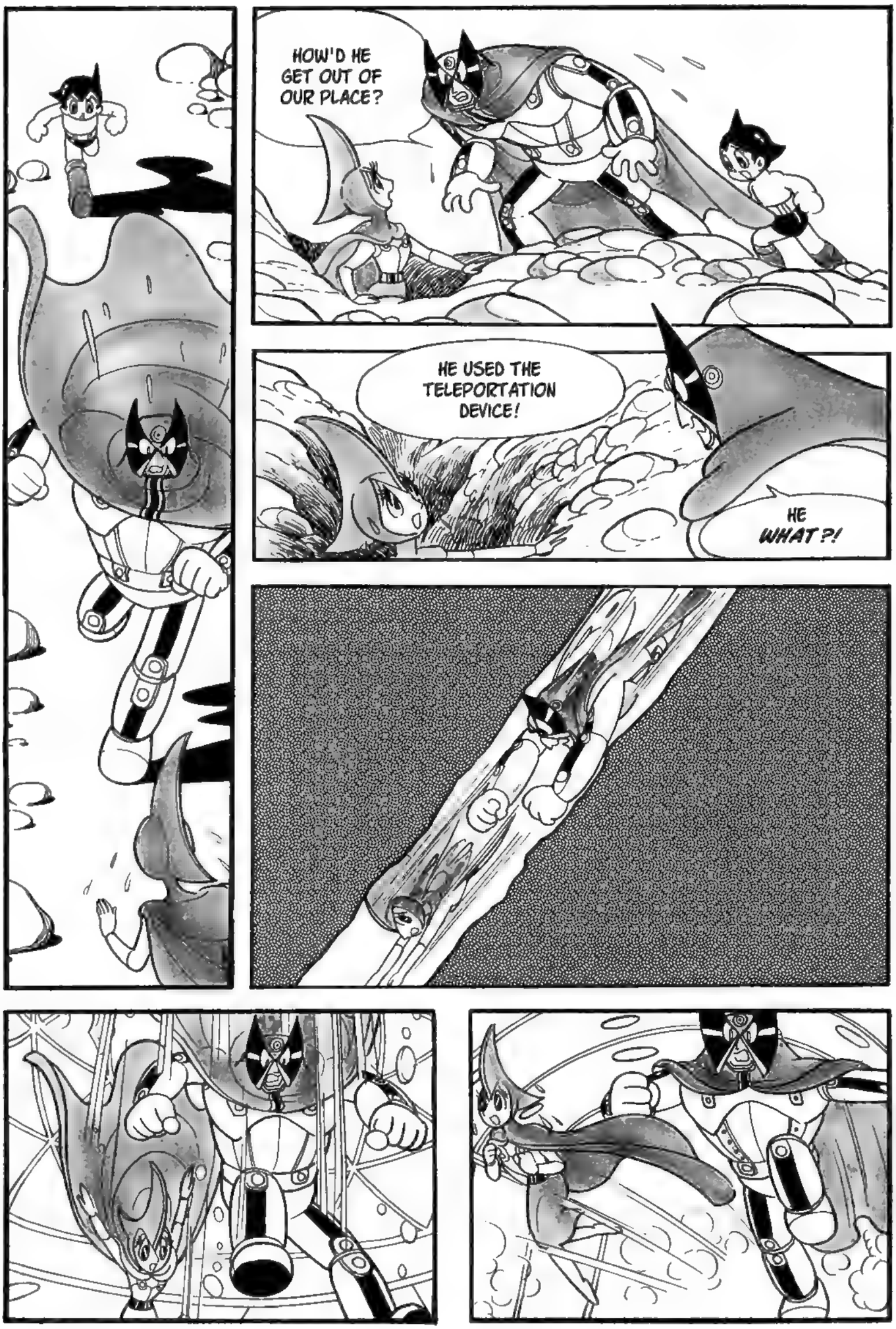

PREPARE TO DIE, ASTRO BOY!
WHA?!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
KABOSH
CRACK
STOP! STOP!!
CRACK

OUT OF THE WAY, WIFE! THIS IS DANGEROUS!
STOP, DEAR! YOU'LL RUIN LOLO'S ROOM!!
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL THAT WEAPON'LL BLOW UP EVERYTHING, INCLUDING EARTH!
ENOUGH, WOMAN! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M FIGHTING AN ENEMY HERE?!
BUT DAD... ASTRO'S NOT AN ENEMY!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, LOLO...
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DAD! YOU LIED TO ME!!
WHEN WE CAME TO EARTH YOU PROMISED YOU'D FIND ME SOME FRIENDS! BUT I'VE BEEN ALL ALONE. NOW ASTRO'S MY FRIEND!!
LOLO, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF... I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER...
WOOSH


YOU COWARD, ASTRO! COME BACK!
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY! I JUST DON'T WANT TO SMASH LOLO'S ROOM!
I'LL FOLLOW YOU, THEN!
WE'LL FIGHT IT OUT ON THE SURFACE!!
YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN A BIT, ASTRO... MAYBE YOU'RE *RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY*.... HA HA!
UH OH...

HOW ABOUT THAT? WHERE'S YOUR MILLION HORSEPOWER NOW?
WHY YOU...
YOU POOR LITTLE ROBOT.... HEH HEH...
SHUNK
TAKE THIS!
USE IT TO REFILL YOUR TANK...
THAT HARPOON'S GOT ENOUGH ENERGY IN IT TO DESTROY A COUPLE 'A PLANETS... HA HA... TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!
.....
.....
I DON'T WANNA FIGHT SOME LIFELESS TIN TOY...

THANKS!
WELL? READY? THIS'LL BE YOUR LAST FIGHT!
DEAR!! COME QUICK!
LOLO RAN AWAY FROM HOME!! AND HE LEFT A NOTE!
LOLO WHAT?!

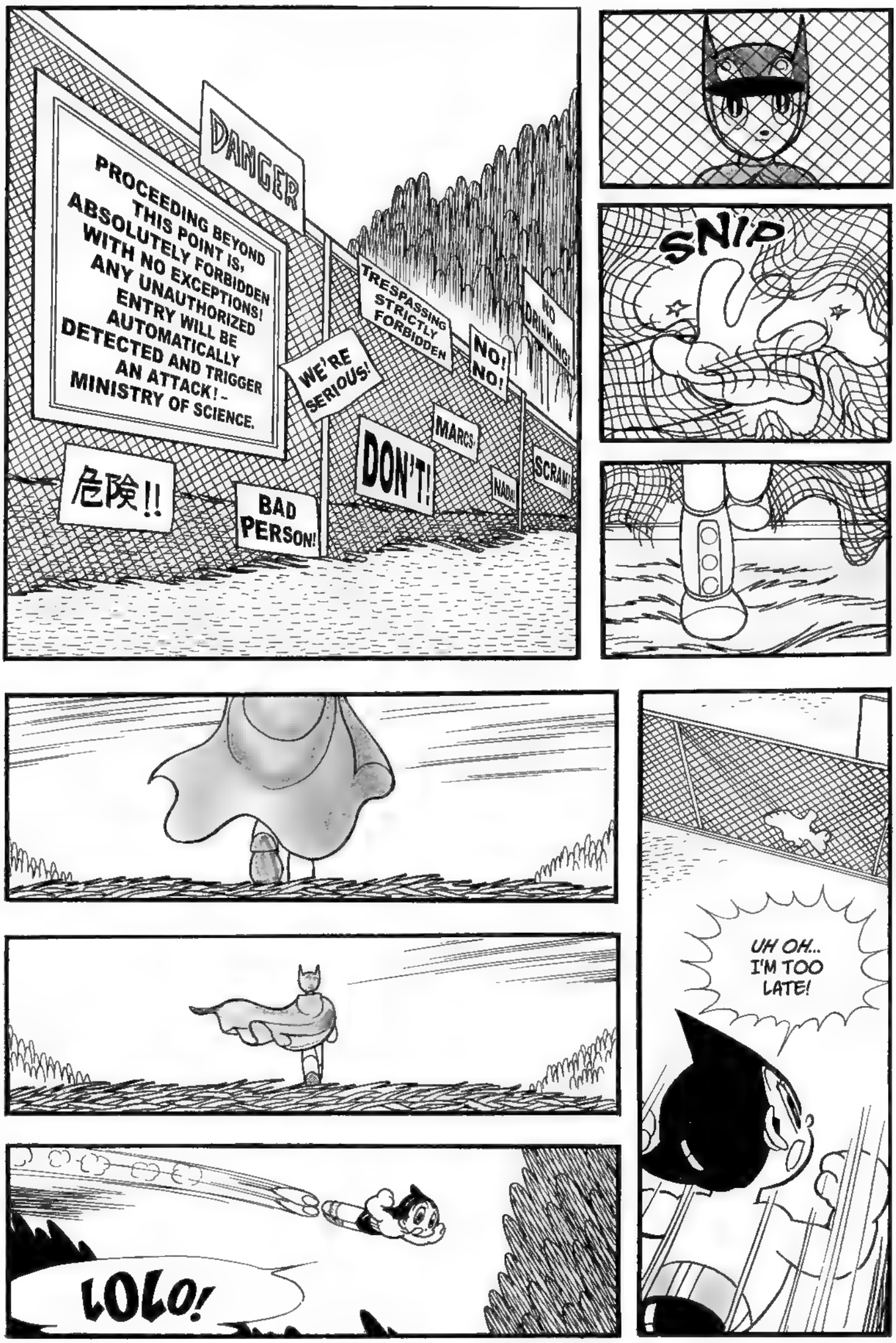

HOW'D HE GET OUT OF OUR PLACE?
HE USED THE TELEPORTATION DEVICE!
HE WHAT?!

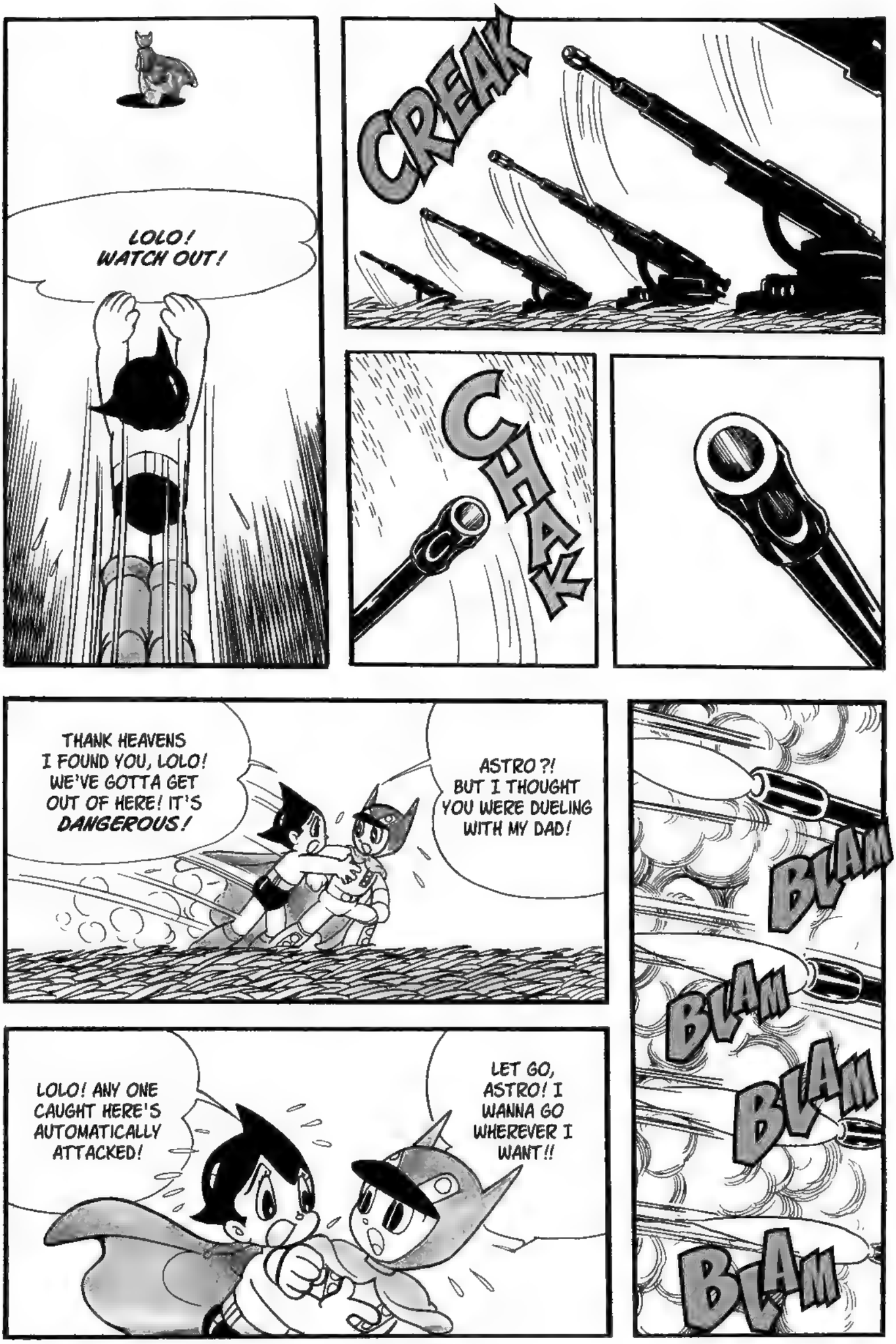
SO HE USED THIS THING?!
HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING?
HERE, HE WROTE A NOTE ON THIS!
DEAR MOM AND DAD.
I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.
JUST WHEN I MAKE FRIENDS WITH ASTRO BOY, DAD DRIVES HIM AWAY. DAD LIED TO ME. HE SAID HE'D SHOW ME LOTS OF INTERESTING STUFF WHEN WE CAME TO EARTH, BUT HE'S NEVER TAKEN ME TO THE SURFACE, NOT EVEN ONCE!!

SO I'M GOING TO THE SURFACE BY MYSELF. I'M GONNA HAVE FUN WITH ROBOTS AND HUMANS. GOOD BYE.
LOLO.... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT LONELY...
IS IT TRUE, ASTRO?
YES, IT IS. HE'S DESPERATE FOR FRIENDS ...
LOLO.... FORGIVE ME, SON... FORGIVE ME...
I'LL GO BRING HIM BACK!
NO, WAIT! I'LL GO!
NO! BOTH OF YOU SHOULD STAY!
YOU'RE BOTH TOO CONSPICUOUS ...
AND BESIDES, WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO LOLO ...
...BEFORE YOU EVEN FIND HIM?

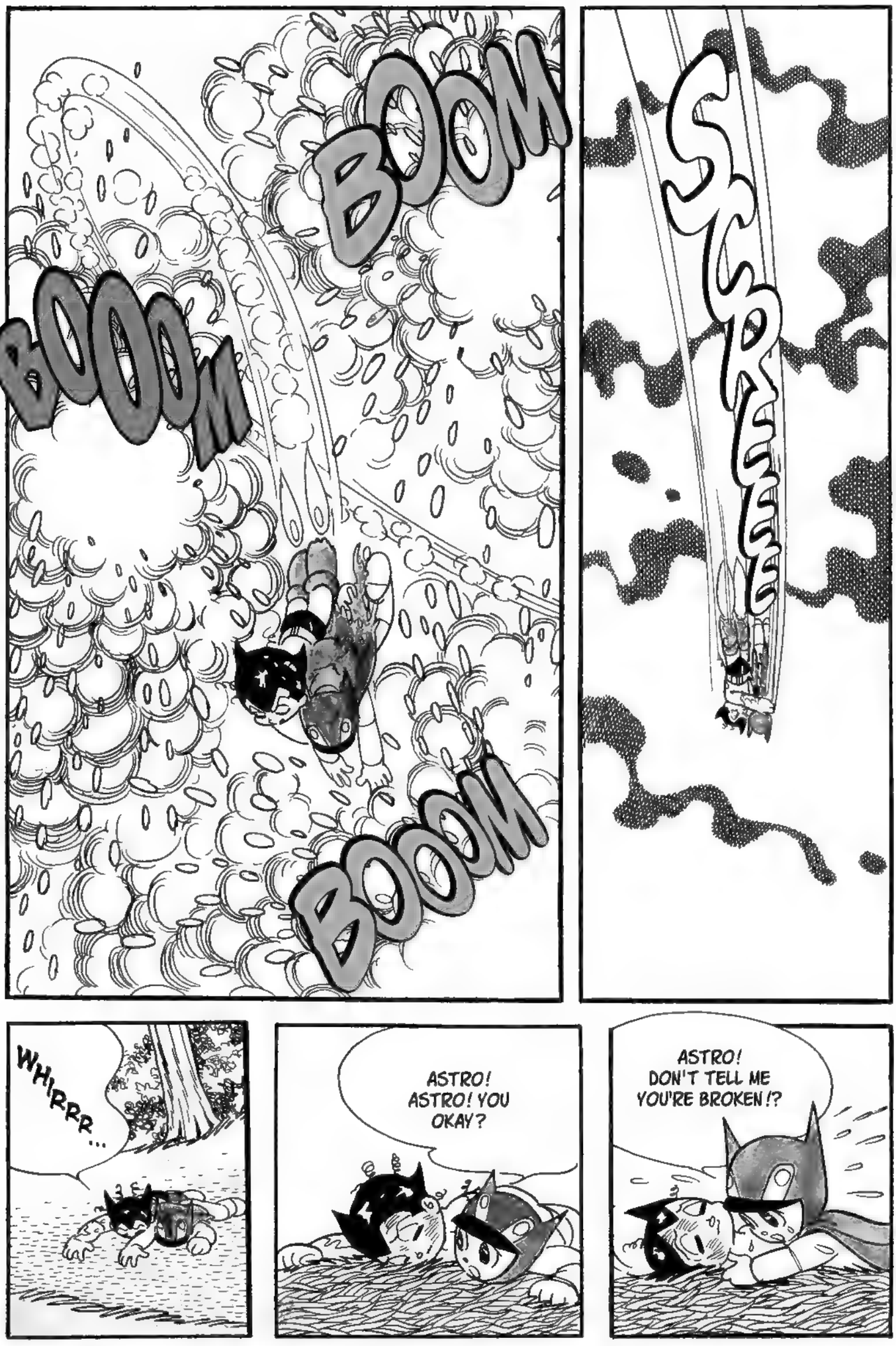
I'LL GO!
SEND ME TO THE SAME PLACE HE WENT!!
NO, ASTRO BOY! YOU SAY YOU'LL HELP, BUT I'LL BET YOU'RE REALLY PLANNING TO CATCH LOLO AND TAKE HIM HOSTAGE, RIGHT?!!
I...I JUST CAN'T TRUST YOU!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT ROBOTS NEVER LIE?!
IF I SAY I'LL DO SOMETHING, I DO IT!
.....
.....
.....
I PROMISE I'LL BRING LOLO BACK!
VERY WELL, THEN...
WE'LL TAKE A CHANCE...
HUMM
CRACKLE
ZAP
ZAP

WHAT?
UH OH... I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS WHERE THERE'S AN *EARTH DEFENSE FORCES* BASE...
LOLO!
LOLO!
CHEEP CHIRP
CHEEP CHIRP


DANGER
PROCEEDING BEYOND THIS POINT IS, ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN WITH NO EXCEPTIONS! ANY UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DETECTED AND TRIGGER AN ATTACK! - MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.
危険!!
BAD PERSON!
WE'RE SERIOUS!
TRESPASSING STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
DON'T!
NO! NO!
MARCS
NADA!
NO DRINKING!
SCRAM!
SNIP
UH OH... I'M TOO LATE!
LOLO!


LOLO! WATCH OUT!
CREAK
CHAK
THANK HEAVENS I FOUND YOU, LOLO! WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! IT'S DANGEROUS!
ASTRO?! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE DUELING WITH MY DAD!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
LOLO! ANY ONE CAUGHT HERE'S AUTOMATICALLY ATTACKED!
LET GO, ASTRO! I WANNA GO WHEREVER I WANT!!

KABOOM!
BOOM!
SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT? WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! HANG ON TO ME!
LET'S GO!
KABOOM
KABAAM

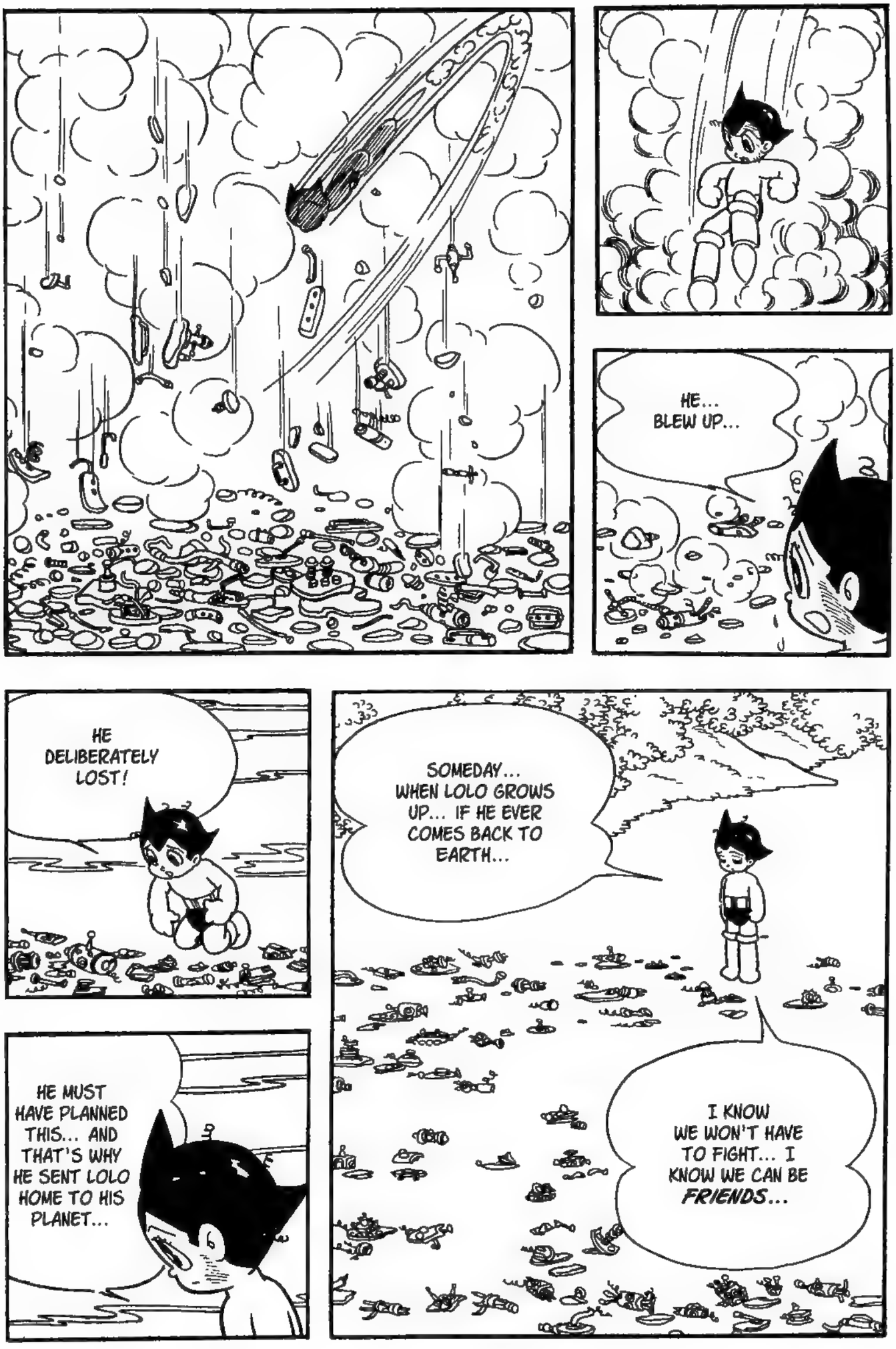

BOOM
BOOOM
BOOM
SSSPRRR

WHA...
LOLO! YOU'RE OKAY!!
DAD!
FORGIVE ME, LOLO... I KNOW I MADE YOU RUN AWAY... IT'S MY FAULT...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK WITH ME. YOUR MOM'S WORRIED!
WE'LL GO BACK TO OUR HOME PLANET, I PROMISE! TO YOUR REAL HOME!
REALLY? TO OUR REAL HOME? REALLY, DAD?!
REALLY, SON... WE'RE ALL READY TO GO...
WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR YOU...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR WORK, DAD? WHAT ABOUT EXPLORING EARTH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, LOLO... LET'S JUST GET IN THE MATTER TRANSPORTER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT POOR ASTRO, DAD?
HE'S ONLY BROKEN, SON... HE'S A ROBOT, AND ROBOTS CAN BE REPAIRED. NOW, YOU GO ON AHEAD OF ME...
YOU'RE COMING RIGHT AFTER ME, RIGHT?

ZAP
SCREE
THANKS FOR SAVING MY SON, ASTRO BOY... YOU'RE A GOOD ROBOT...
I WONDER IF ALL ROBOTS ON EARTH ARE AS GOOD AS YOU ARE...
IF I FIX YOU, I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT YOU...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY YOU... YOU DESERVE TO LIVE...
HUMMM...
IT'S THE ROBOID!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT I WAS BROKEN!
IS LOLO OKAY?
WHA?!
RELAX. LOLO WENT HOME.
SO NOW WE HAVE TO FINISH OUR FIGHT!

DID LOLO REALLY GO BACK?
.....
.....
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT THE --?!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
VOOSH
BABABA BOOM
WH- WHAT'S THAT?!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY, ASTRO. THAT'S OUR SPACESHIP... IT'S GOING HOME...
GOING HOME?
MY WIFE AND LOLO ARE ON BOARD.
THEY'RE LEAVING EARTH FOREVER...
THE SHIP'S ON AUTO PILOT AND IT'LL TAKE THEM STRAIGHT TO MY PLANET. I SECRETLY SET IT UP THAT WAY FOR THEM...

BUT WHY AREN'T YOU GOING *WITH* THEM?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO FINISH MY DUEL WITH *YOU!*
LISTEN, ASTRO... MY TROOPS MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, AND MY PLAN TO CONQUER EARTH MAY HAVE BEEN RUINED, BUT I'LL FIGHT TO THE END! FOR THE SAKE OF *ROBOID HONOR!*
SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE... COME ON, ASTRO BOY!!
PREPARE FOR THE END!
COME ON!!
KABOOOM

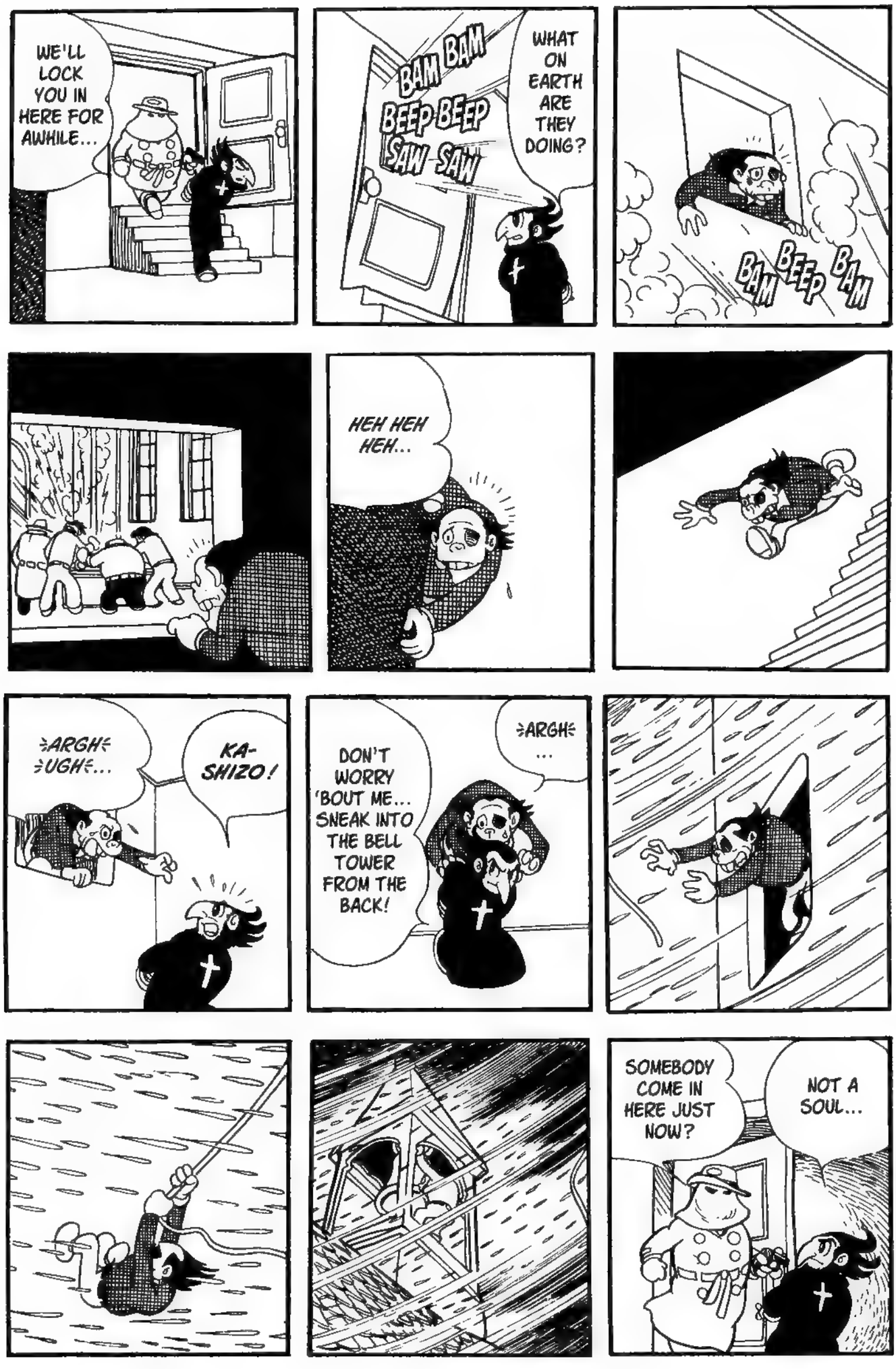

HE...
BLEW UP...
HE
DELIBERATELY
LOST!
HE MUST
HAVE PLANNED
THIS... AND
THAT'S WHY
HE SENT LOLO
HOME TO HIS
PLANET...
SOMEDAY...
WHEN LOLO GROWS
UP... IF HE EVER
COMES BACK TO
EARTH...
I KNOW
WE WON'T HAVE
TO FIGHT... I
KNOW WE CAN BE
FRIENDS...

THE EYES OF CHRIST

First appeared in the January 1965 supplement of *Shonen* magazine.

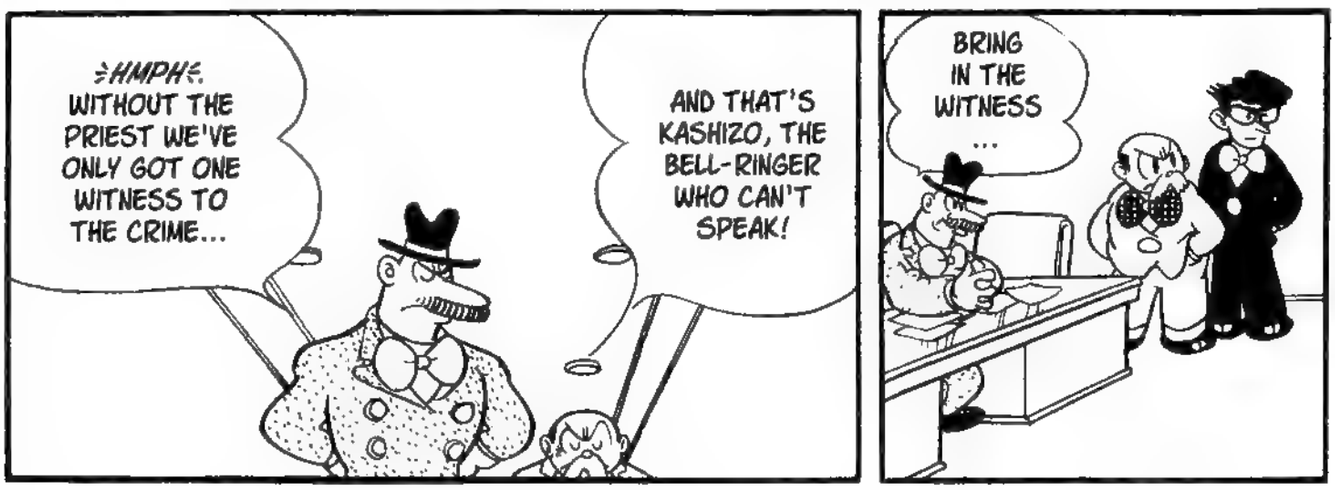
CRACK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
FLASH
TELE-GRAM! TELE-GRAM!
DON'T SAY ANY-THING, FATHER ...
WE NEED TO BORROW YOUR CHURCH FOR THE NIGHT...
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
I CAN'T TELL YOU MY NAME, BUT WE NEED A BIG ROOM FOR AN EXPERIMENT...
DON'T WORRY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING...

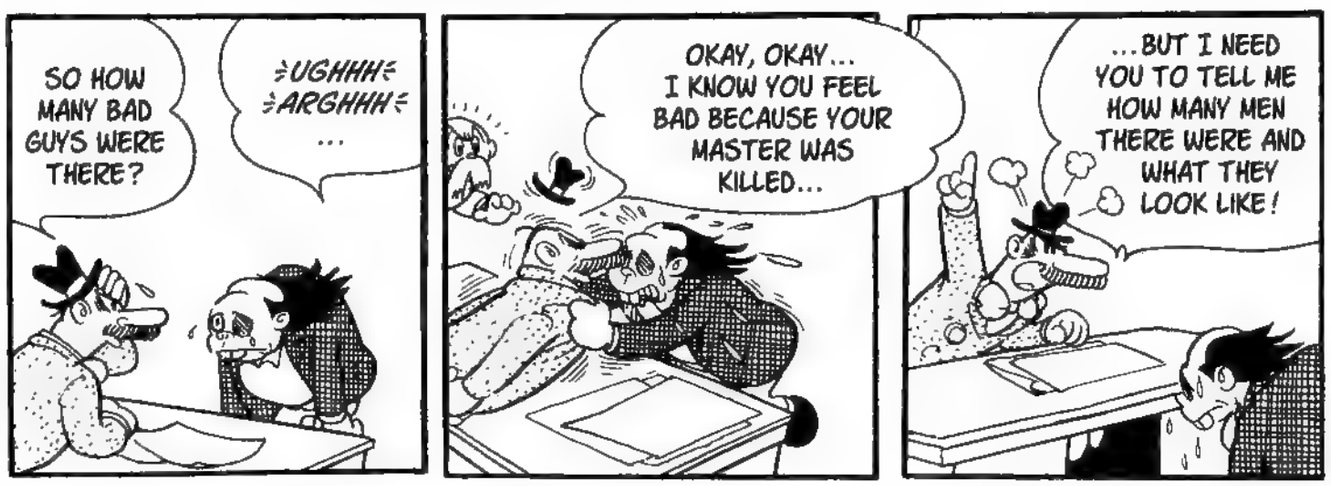
JUST PRETEND YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, BUT THIS IS A CHURCH!
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX... SEVEN MEN...
WHOOPS! THE WIND CAUGHT MY HAT!
WHOOSH
WAIT... YOU'RE--
UH OH... HE SAW MY FACE!!
IF YOU MEN PLAN ON DOING ANYTHING BAD, JUST REMEMBER...
...JESUS IS WATCHING !!!
TAKE THIS AND BLINDFOLD HIM, THEN...
.....
.....
.....

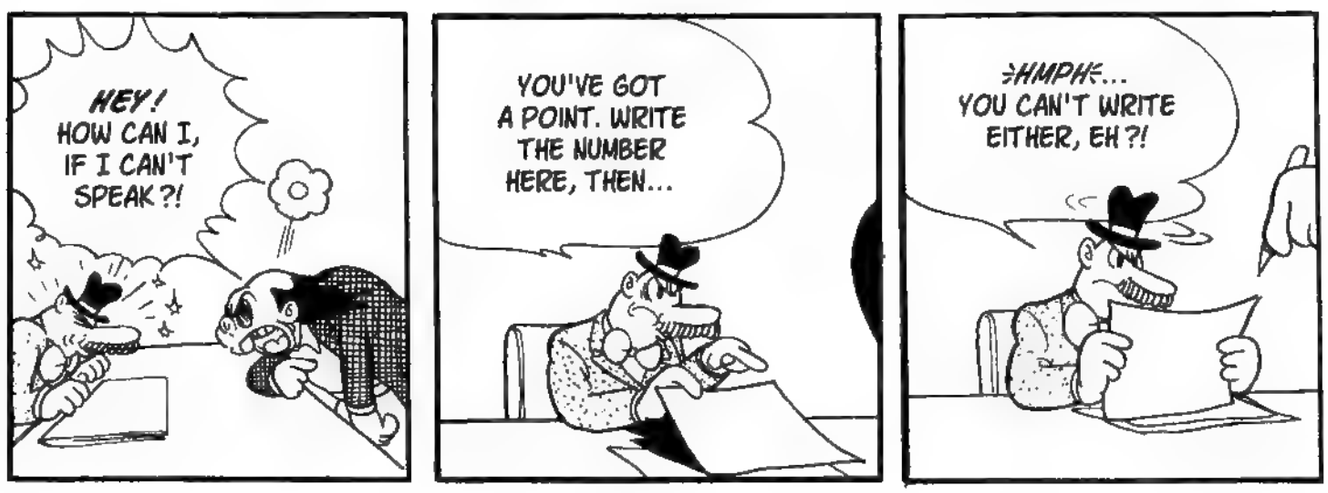

WE'LL LOCK YOU IN HERE FOR AWHILE...
BAM BAM BEEP BEEP SAW SAW
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY DOING?
BAM BEEP BAM
HEH HEH HEH...
≠ARGH≠ ≠UGH≠...
KA-SHIZO!
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME... SNEAK INTO THE BELL TOWER FROM THE BACK!
≠ARGH≠ ...
SOMEBODY COME IN HERE JUST NOW?
NOT A SOUL...

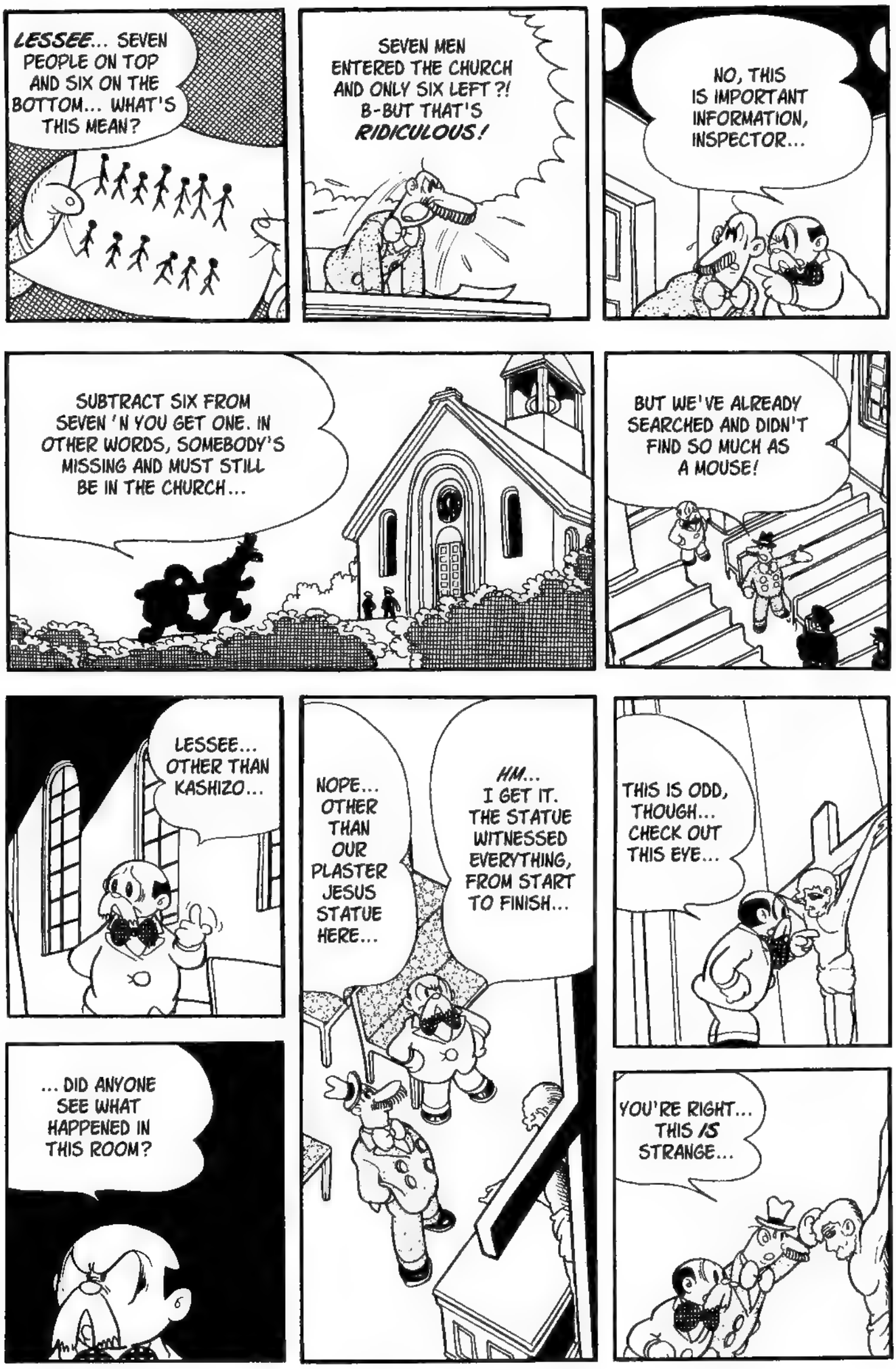
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
BING
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
UH OH!!
IT'S A WARN-ING BELL!
BONG
BONG
YOU BETRAYED US, FATHER!!
THE BELL RINGER WAS HERE EARLIER, WASN'T HE?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE WAS. AND HELP WILL BE ON THE WAY, SO YOU'D BETTER ASK THE LORD FOR FORGIVENESS!
BLAM!
OKAY, GUYS! LET'S RUN FOR IT!
HOW COME YOU SHOT THE PRIEST, YOU IDIOT?!
I HAD TO! HE SAW MY FACE!!
BONG
BONG
BONG

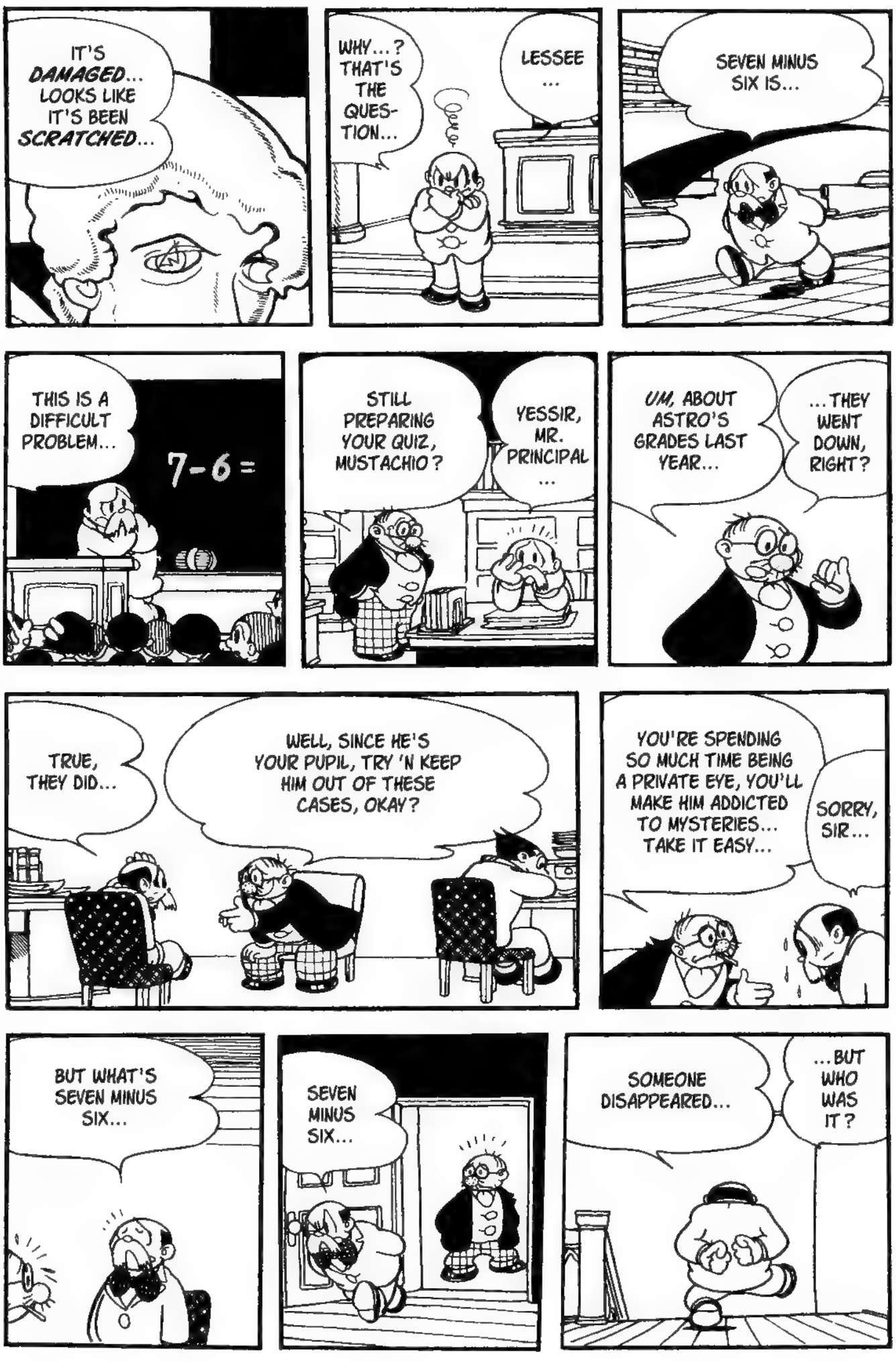
THE VERY NEXT DAY...
SO YOU COULDN'T SAVE THE PRIEST, DOCTOR?
UNFORTUNATELY, NO... HE WAS ALREADY DEAD...

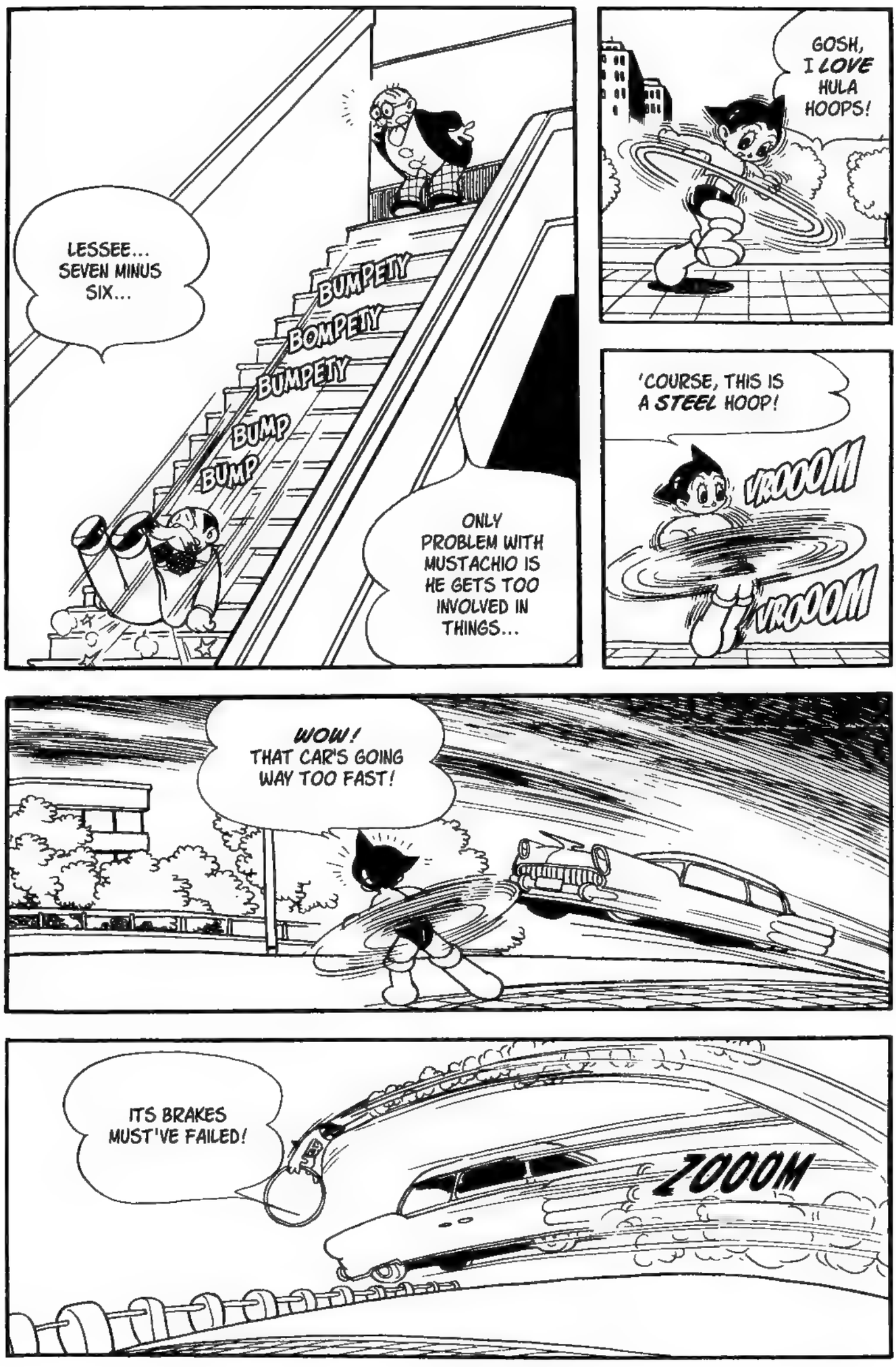

=HMPH=. WITHOUT THE PRIEST WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE WITNESS TO THE CRIME...
AND THAT'S KASHIZO, THE BELL-RINGER WHO CAN'T SPEAK!
BRING IN THE WITNESS ...


SO HOW MANY BAD GUYS WERE THERE?
=UGHHH= =ARGHHH= ...
OKAY, OKAY... I KNOW YOU FEEL BAD BECAUSE YOUR MASTER WAS KILLED...
...BUT I NEED YOU TO TELL ME HOW MANY MEN THERE WERE AND WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE!


HEY! HOW CAN I, IF I CAN'T SPEAK?!
YOU'VE GOT A POINT. WRITE THE NUMBER HERE, THEN...
=HMPH=... YOU CAN'T WRITE EITHER, EH?!


LESSEE... SEVEN PEOPLE ON TOP AND SIX ON THE BOTTOM... WHAT'S THIS MEAN?
SEVEN MEN ENTERED THE CHURCH AND ONLY SIX LEFT?! B-BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
NO, THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION, INSPECTOR...
SUBTRACT SIX FROM SEVEN 'N YOU GET ONE. IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEBODY'S MISSING AND MUST STILL BE IN THE CHURCH...
BUT WE'VE ALREADY SEARCHED AND DIDN'T FIND SO MUCH AS A MOUSE!
LESSEE... OTHER THAN KASHIZO...
NOPE... OTHER THAN OUR PLASTER JESUS STATUE HERE...
HM... I GET IT. THE STATUE WITNESSED EVERYTHING, FROM START TO FINISH...
THIS IS ODD, THOUGH... CHECK OUT THIS EYE...
... DID ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS ROOM?
YOU'RE RIGHT... THIS IS STRANGE...


IT'S DAMAGED... LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN SCRATCHED...
WHY...? THAT'S THE QUES-TION...
LESSEE ...
SEVEN MINUS SIX IS...
THIS IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM...
7-6 =
STILL PREPARING YOUR QUIZ, MUSTACHIO?
YESSIR, MR. PRINCIPAL ...
UM, ABOUT ASTRO'S GRADES LAST YEAR...
...THEY WENT DOWN, RIGHT?
TRUE, THEY DID...
WELL, SINCE HE'S YOUR PUPIL, TRY 'N KEEP HIM OUT OF THESE CASES, OKAY?
YOU'RE SPENDING SO MUCH TIME BEING A PRIVATE EYE, YOU'LL MAKE HIM ADDICTED TO MYSTERIES... TAKE IT EASY...
SORRY, SIR...
BUT WHAT'S SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SOMEONE DISAPPEARED...
...BUT WHO WAS IT?

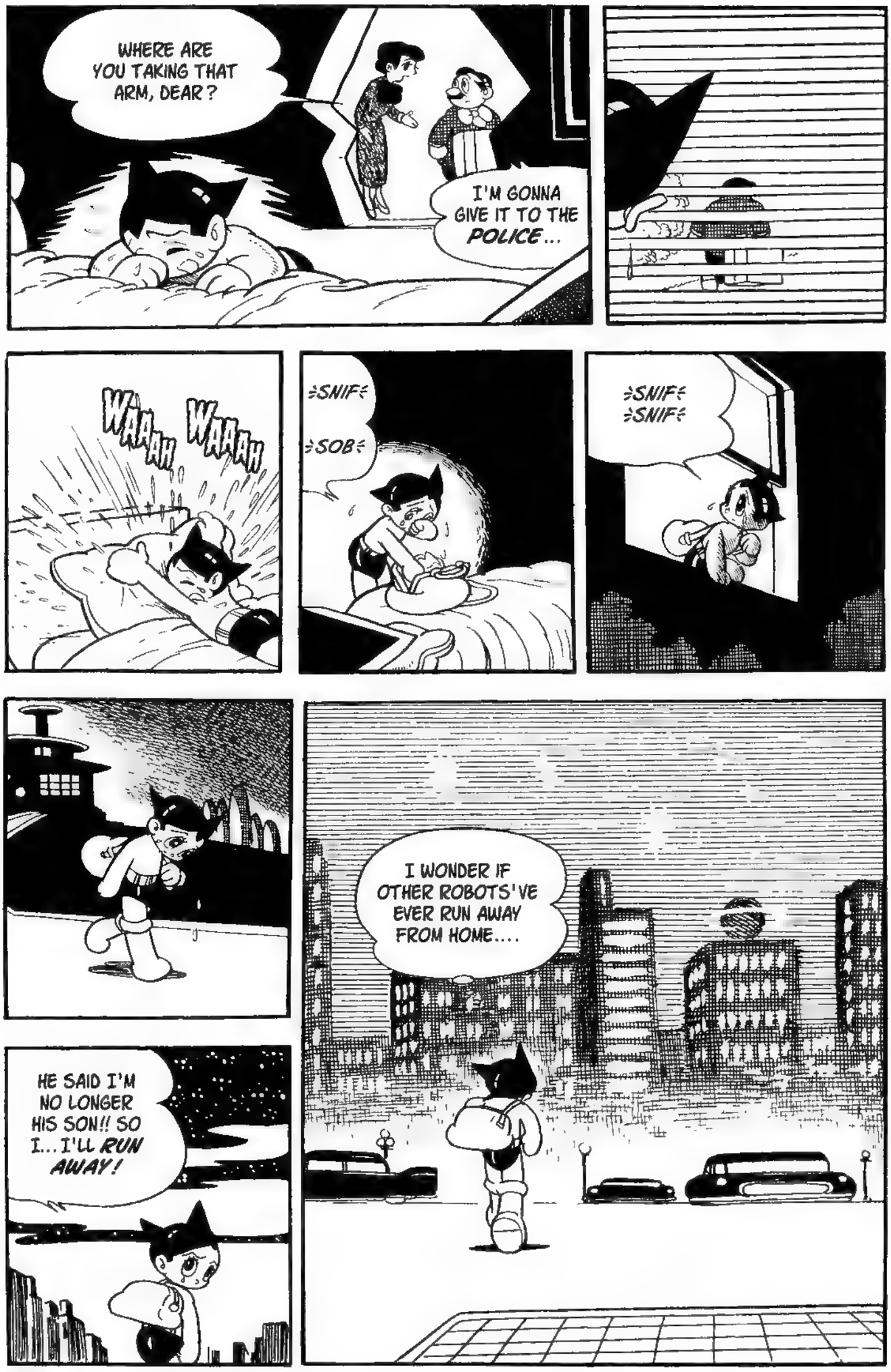

LESSEE... SEVEN MINUS SIX...
BUMPETY
BOMPETY
BUMPETY
BUMP
BUMP
ONLY PROBLEM WITH MUSTACHIO IS HE GETS TOO INVOLVED IN THINGS...
GOSH, I LOVE HULA HOOPS!
'COURSE, THIS IS A STEEL HOOP!
VROOOM
VROOOM
WOW! THAT CAR'S GOING WAY TOO FAST!
ITS BRAKES MUST'VE FAILED!
ZOOOM

YOU ALL RIGHT, MISTER?
GOSH... YOU'VE BEEN SHOT!!
DO ME A FAVOR, STRANGER... PLEASE...
...LOOK... UNDER THE SEAT...
TAKE... CARE OF IT... DON'T... EVER GIVE IT TO ANYONE....
IF YOU DO, IT'LL CAUSE A DISASTER... NEVER... GIVE IT... TO ANYONE...
MISTER !!
SLUMP
I'D BETTER CALL A DOCTOR ...
THAT'S THE LAST THING WE NEED...
WE GOT RID OF THE TRAITOR, BUT THIS WON'T DO...
THAT KID TOOK WHAT WE WANT...
...AND WE'VE GOTTA GET IT BACK...
RIGHT...

MOM, DAD... GUESS WHAT?
ASTRO, COME HERE...
THERE WAS A CAR OUT OF CONTROL, AND THEN I...
ASTRO, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM...
WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU, ASTRO...
DID YOU KNOW YOUR GRADES ARE GOING DOWN?
YOUR TEACHER WAS JUST HERE, ASTRO...
GOSH, I DIDN'T KNOW...
DON'T FORGET, WE'RE ROBOTS, ASTRO...
I'M SORRY...
YOU'VE GOT TO STUDY EVEN HARDER THAN THE HUMAN BOYS AND GIRLS TO KEEP UP, ASTRO...

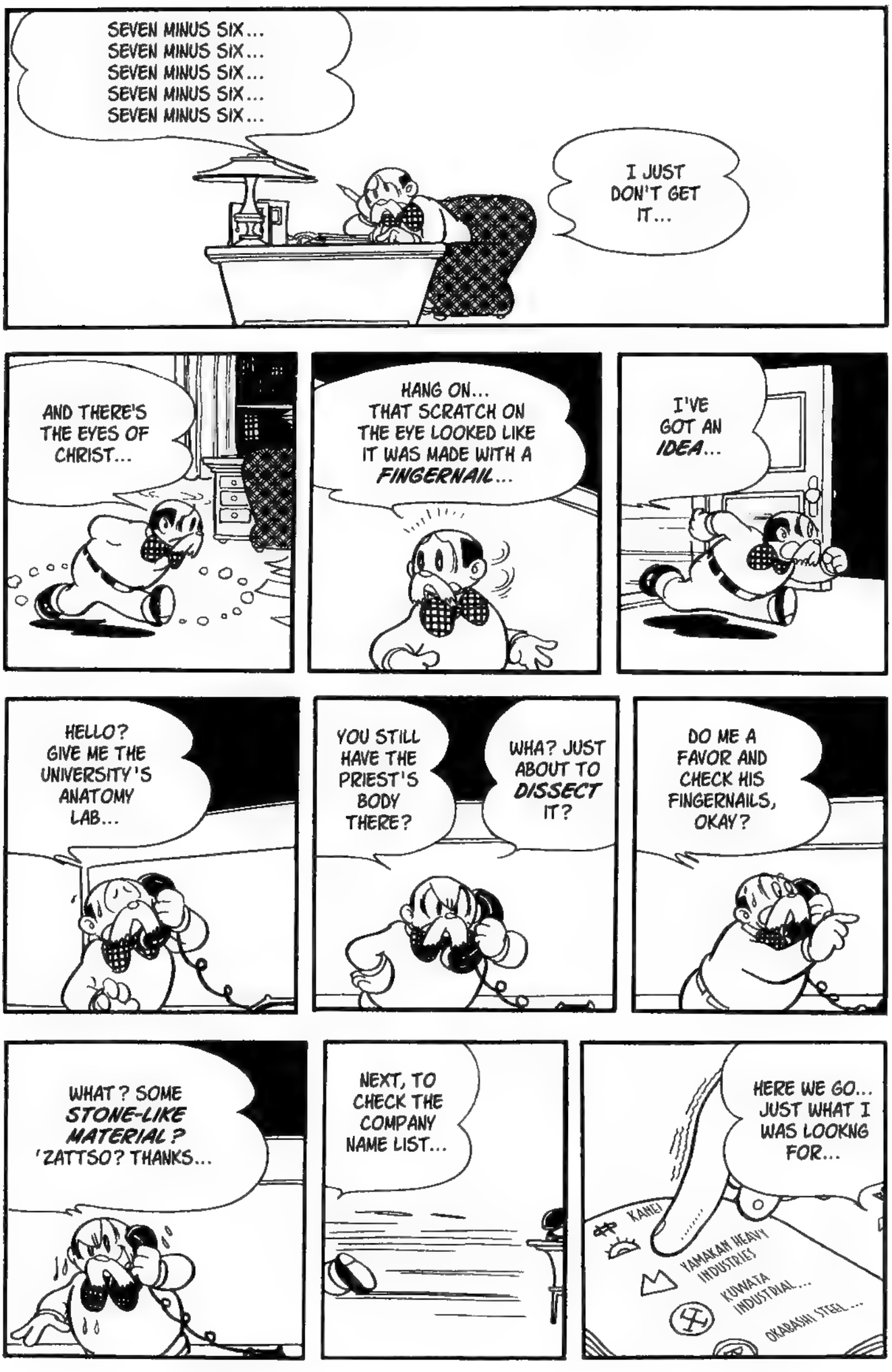
WHAT'S THIS STRANGE THING YOU'VE BROUGHT HOME, ASTRO? HOPE YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED IN ANOTHER WEIRD CASE...
THE CAR DRIVER GAVE IT TO ME, DAD...
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TAKE A LOOK...
WHAT?! AN ARM?!
LOOKS LIKE A ROBOT'S!
'SCUSE ME... I'M HERE TO SEE MASTER ASTRO...
I NEED THAT ARM BACK...
UM... I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GIVE IT TO ANYONE...
WHY'S THAT? IT BELONGS TO ME, YOU KNOW!
I WAS TOLD NOT TO GIVE IT TO ANYONE, AND...
...BESIDES, I CAN TELL WHETHER PEOPLE ARE GOOD OR BAD...
AND YOU'RE A BAD PERSON! YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING BAD, AREN'T YOU?!
AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

IF YOU DON'T HAND IT OVER, I'LL SHOOT YOU WITH THIS ELECTRO-MAG GUN!!
WHACK
CRUNCH
DID YOU KNOW YOUR SON'S A THIEF?!
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
WHAT A ROBOT DISASTER YOU'VE RAISED!
COME BACK HERE, ASTRO!
I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GOT THAT ARM, SON... BUT YOU SHOULD GIVE IT BACK!
BUT DAD, IT'S NOT HER'S!
I WAS TOLD NOT TO GIVE THIS TO ANYONE!!
ARE YOU DISOBEYING YOUR FATHER, ASTRO?!
CONTINUE ACTING THIS WAY, AND YOU'RE NO LONGER MY SON!!
WAAAAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH
SOB
SOB
I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I HAD TO BE STRICT, FOR HIS OWN GOOD...
WAAH

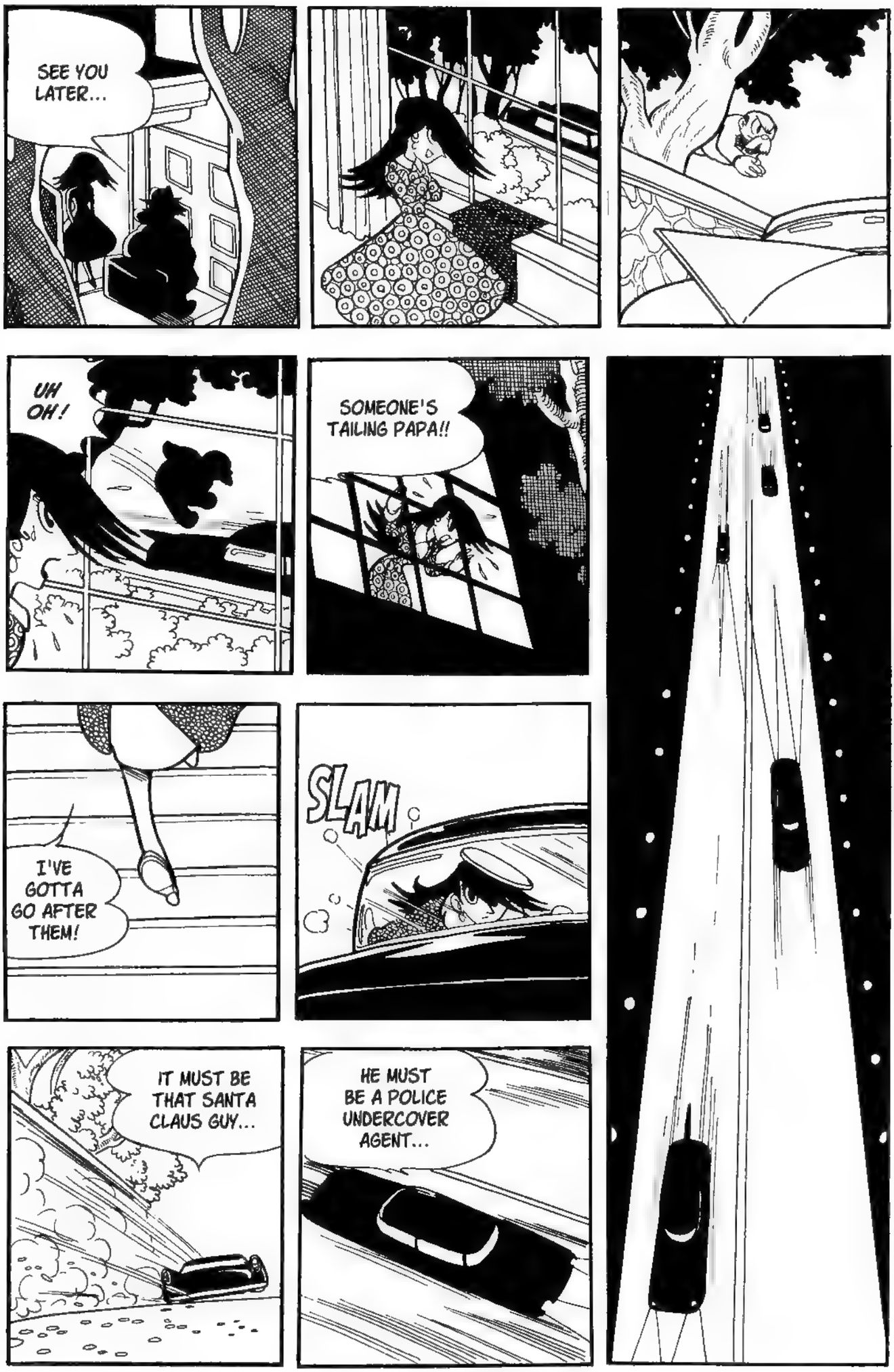

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT ARM, DEAR?
I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO THE POLICE...
WAAAH WAAAH
SNIF
SOB
SNIF
SNIF
I WONDER IF OTHER ROBOTS'VE EVER RUN AWAY FROM HOME....
HE SAID I'M NO LONGER HIS SON!! SO I... I'LL RUN AWAY!

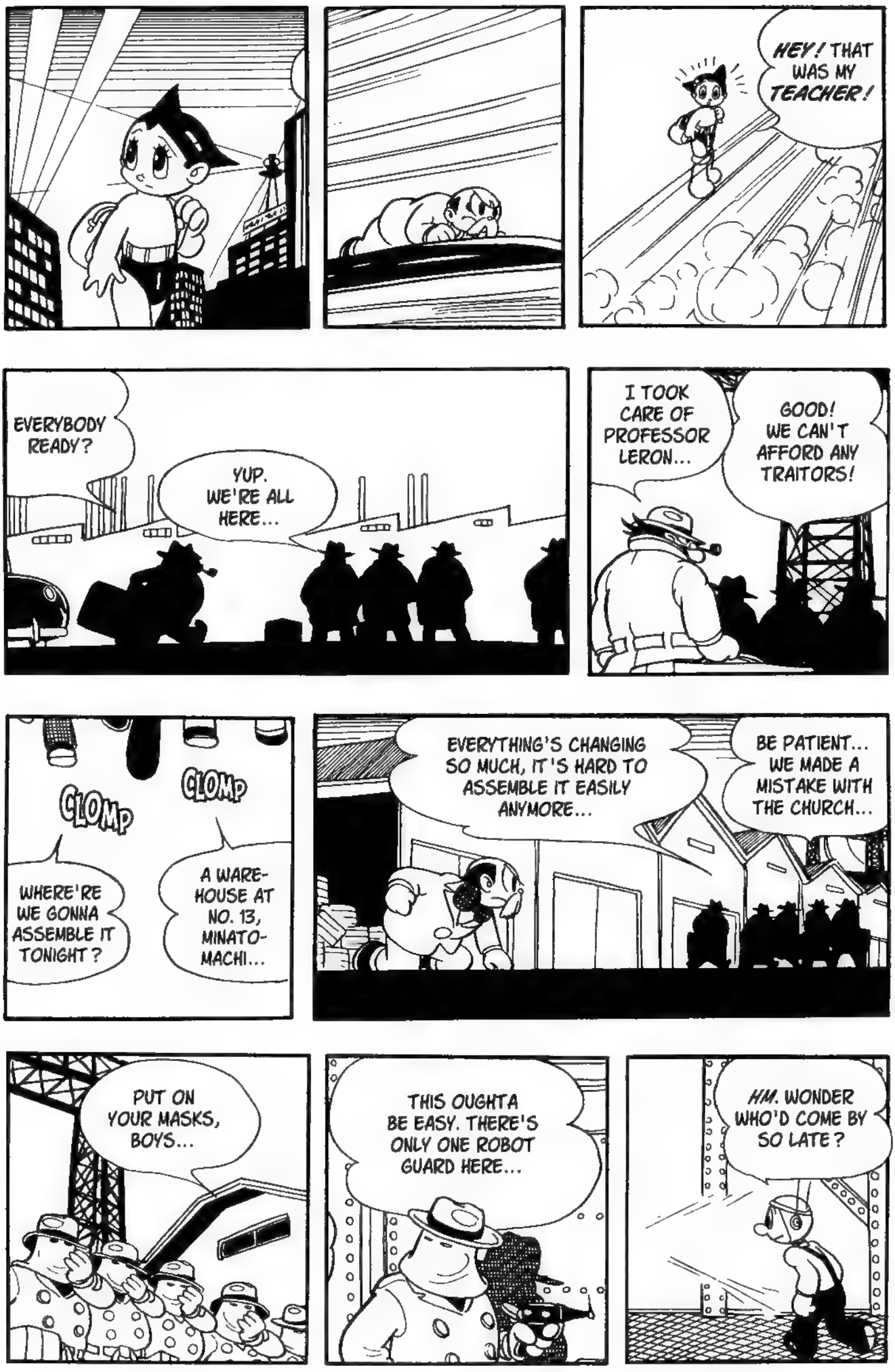
ASTRO'S GONE!!
ASTRO!!
I JUST KNOW HE'S RUN AWAY!
ASTRO! COME HOME!! PLEASE!
TAKANO CAMERA
GRILL
BAR VIKING
IBARAKI TAXI
WE MUST HAVE HURT HIS FEELINGS! WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
ASTRO DISTRUSTS PEOPLE TOO MUCH, EVEN THOUGH THE ROBOT LAW SAYS WE HAVE TO TRUST THEM...
HEH HEH HEH...
WHA?! THE SAME WOMAN...?
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

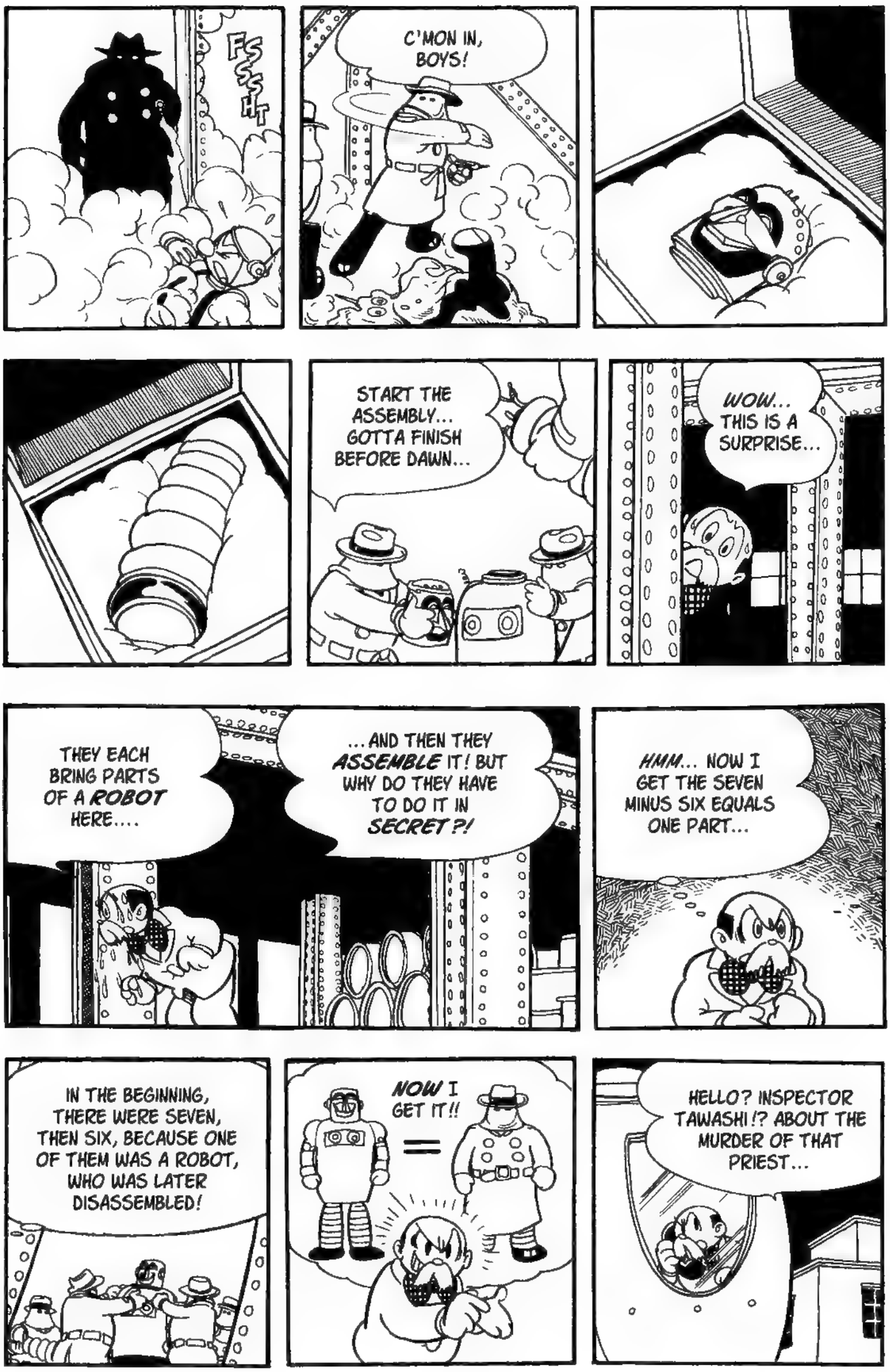
THANKS, THIS IS ALL I NEED...
DEAR...?!
DEAR, WHAT HAPPENED?! WHERE'S THE SUITCASE?!
MY GOSH, YOU'RE COMPLETELY BROKEN!!
HE'S PRETTY SMASHED UP...
≠WHEW≠ ≠WHEW≠...
DEAR ....
WHA? WHERE'S ASTRO?!
ASTRO WAS RIGHT. HE NOSE WHETHER HUMANS'RE GOOD OR BAD, AND THAT WOMAN WAS BAD!
SHE TOOK THE SUITCASE.... I'VE GOTTA APOLOGIZE TO ASTRO...
ASTRO RAN AWAY! THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?!
ACK, YOU BROKE DOWN AGAIN!
KA CHANK
THUD


SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SEVEN MINUS SIX...
SEVEN MINUS SIX...
I JUST DON'T GET IT...
AND THERE'S THE EYES OF CHRIST...
HANG ON... THAT SCRATCH ON THE EYE LOOKED LIKE IT WAS MADE WITH A FINGERNAIL...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
HELLO? GIVE ME THE UNIVERSITY'S ANATOMY LAB...
YOU STILL HAVE THE PRIEST'S BODY THERE?
WHA? JUST ABOUT TO DISSECT IT?
DO ME A FAVOR AND CHECK HIS FINGERNAILS, OKAY?
WHAT? SOME STONE-LIKE MATERIAL? 'ZATTSO? THANKS...
NEXT, TO CHECK THE COMPANY NAME LIST...
HERE WE GO... JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKNG FOR...
KANEJ
YAMAKAN HEAVY INDUSTRIES
KUWATA INDUSTRIAL...
OKABASHI STEEL...

SOMEBODY SCRATCHED THE EYES OF THE CRUXIFIX WITH THEIR FINGERNAILS...
I'M USUALLY RIGHT ABOUT THESE THINGS...
KANBEI YAMANO, PRESIDENT OF YAMANAN HEAVY INDUSTRIES...
ONE OF THE CRIMINALS DEFINITELY HAS A LINK TO THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COMPANY...
UH OH... A CAR'S COMING...
MUST BE THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER!
I GOT IT, PAPA!
WELL DONE, DAUGHTER...
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN...
LOSING EVEN ONE OF THESE'D BE A DISASTER, WOULDN'T IT...?
I'LL SAY... IT'S NOT JUST FOR YOUR PAPA...
FOR THE SIX, I MEAN FIVE, MEMBERS NOW... LOSING EVEN ONE OF THESE RESULTS IN BEING SMASHED...
HEY! WHO'S THAT?!
KATHUD
UM, IT'S SANTA CLAUS... MY TIMING'S A LITTLE OFF... HEH HEH...
I'LL SAY... IT'S FEBRUARY, IDIOT! GET OUT OF HERE!


SEE YOU LATER...
UH OH!
SOMEONE'S TAILING PAPA!!
I'VE GOTTA GO AFTER THEM!
SLAM
IT MUST BE THAT SANTA CLAUS GUY...
HE MUST BE A POLICE UNDERCOVER AGENT...


HEY! THAT WAS MY TEACHER!
EVERYBODY READY?
YUP. WE'RE ALL HERE...
I TOOK CARE OF PROFESSOR LERON...
GOOD! WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY TRAITORS!
CLOMP
CLOMP
WHERE'RE WE GONNA ASSEMBLE IT TONIGHT?
A WARE-HOUSE AT NO. 13, MINATO-MACHI...
EVERYTHING'S CHANGING SO MUCH, IT'S HARD TO ASSEMBLE IT EASILY ANYMORE...
BE PATIENT... WE MADE A MISTAKE WITH THE CHURCH...
PUT ON YOUR MASKS, BOYS...
THIS OUGHTA BE EASY. THERE'S ONLY ONE ROBOT GUARD HERE...
HM. WONDER WHO'D COME BY SO LATE?


FSSSHT
C'MON IN, BOYS!
START THE ASSEMBLY... GOTTA FINISH BEFORE DAWN...
WOW... THIS IS A SURPRISE...
THEY EACH BRING PARTS OF A ROBOT HERE....
...AND THEN THEY ASSEMBLE IT! BUT WHY DO THEY HAVE TO DO IT IN SECRET?!
HMM... NOW I GET THE SEVEN MINUS SIX EQUALS ONE PART...
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE SEVEN, THEN SIX, BECAUSE ONE OF THEM WAS A ROBOT, WHO WAS LATER DISASSEMBLED!
NOW I GET IT!!
HELLO? INSPECTOR TAWASHI!? ABOUT THE MURDER OF THAT PRIEST...

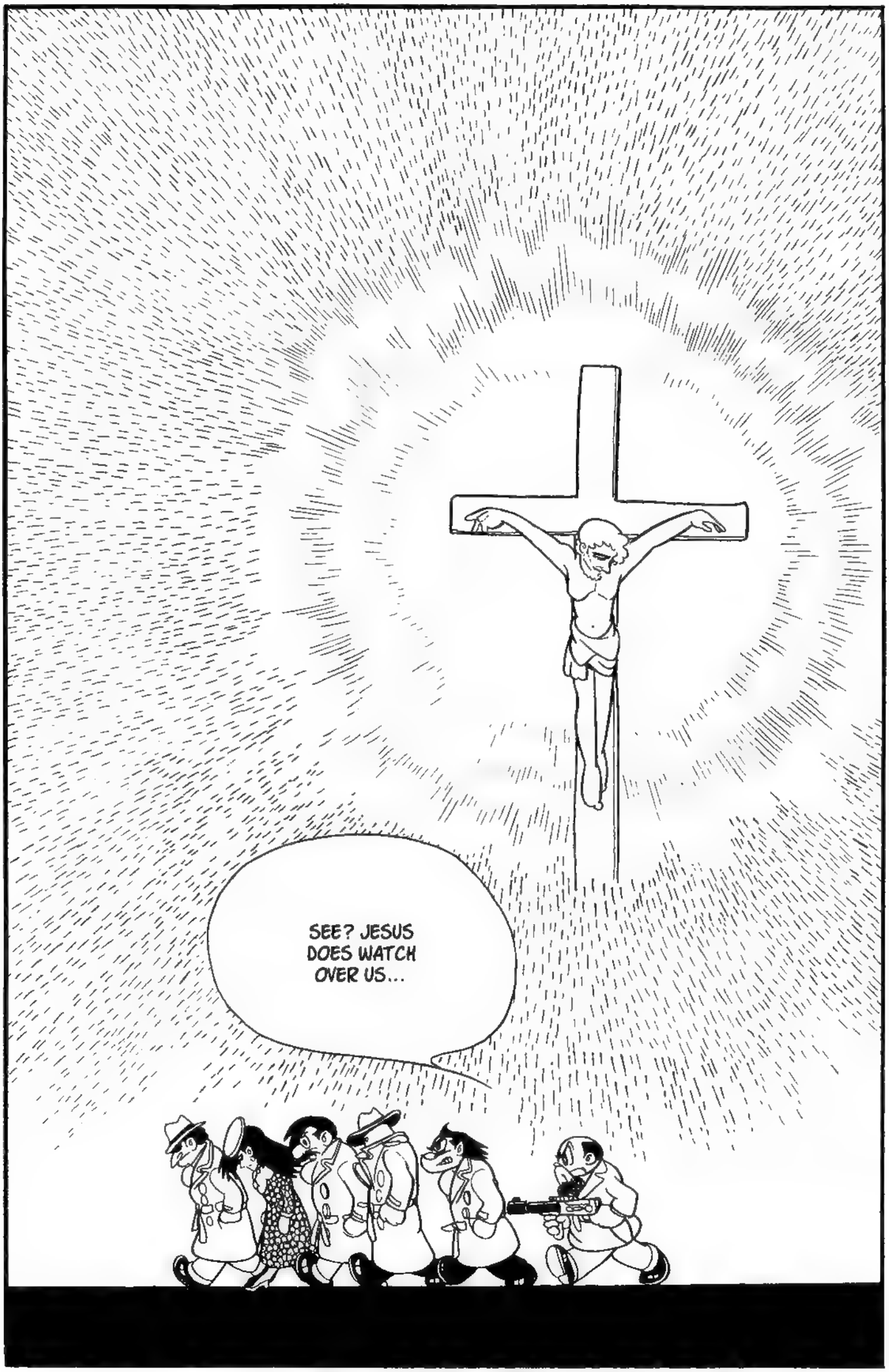
I FIGURED OUT WHY THEY WERE USING THE CHURCH!
THEY USE WAREHOUSES AND CHURCHES TO SECRETLY ASSEMBLY THAT ROBOT!
...AND I BET IT'S A ROBOT WITH SOME SUPER SCARY FEATURE BUILT INTO HIM...
WELL, WELL... WHAT A CLEVER PRIVATE EYE YOU ARE!
JUST AS YOU THOUGHT... THAT ROBOT'S NO ORDINARY ROBOT!
PUBLIC PHONE
HE'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL KILLER-ROBOTS! HE CAN KILL A THOUSAND PEOPLE IN A SECOND!
WHEN A WAR BREAKS OUT AGAIN, EVERY COUNTRY'LL WANT ONE...
AND SINCE YOU KNOW OUR SECRET...
...WE'VE GOTTA GET RID OF YOU NOW!
LET THE ROBOT TAKE HIM ON...

WHA ?!
SIC 'IM!
UH OH...
=AGH=...
HA-AALP!
WHOOSH
ASTRO! IN THE NICK OF TIME!
BLAST 'IM!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL SMASH THAT KILLER-ROBOT!
=ARGH= =!!=
SMASH
WHA ?!
WHA ?!

GRAAAR!
GAGAGAGA!
B-B-BEEEP
BIRIBIRI BIRI
KERSMASH
YAY! OUR ROBOT'S ANGRY! USE THAT KILLER BEAM!
WHO'S AFRAID OF THAT?
SIC 'IM! GO ON!!
HEY, WAIT A SEC... HE CAN KILL THOUSANDS IN A SECOND... WHICH MEANS WE MIGHT...

...BE KILLED, TOO!!
ACK! YOU'RE RIGHT!!
STOP! DON'T USE YOUR KILLER BEAM HERE! PLEEASE!
TELL HIM TO STOP!
GAH!
WE'VE GOTTA SHOOT HIM...
MELT HIM!!
THAT WAS CLOSE...

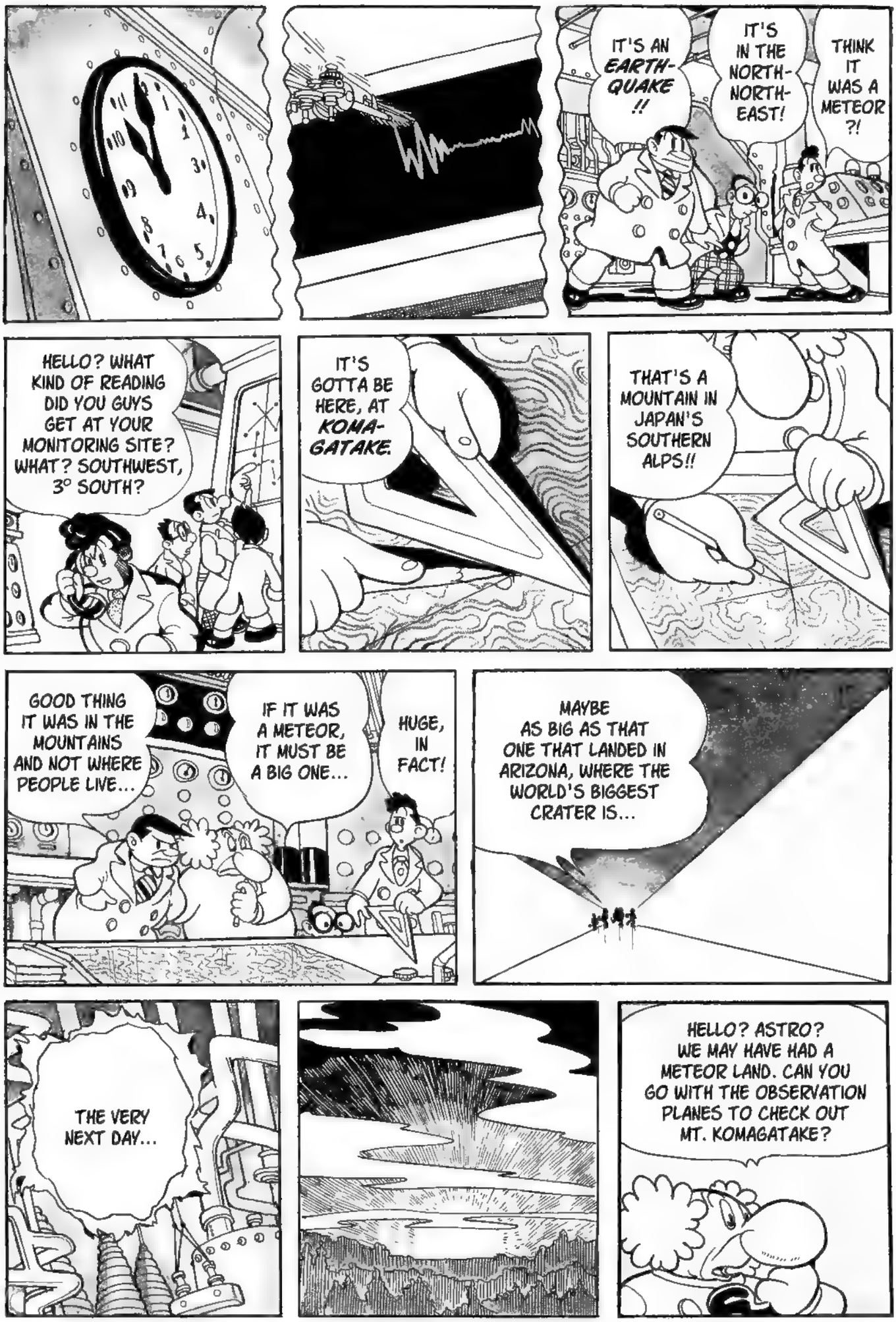
AND IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT!!
RAT AT AT AT
=ARGH!=
YIKES!
HA HA HA! THAT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING!
I GET IT! YOU'RE THE COMPANY PRESIDENT! YOU MADE THAT ROBOT, HOPING TO GET RICH IN WAR...
HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS ONE OF THEM?!
REALLY WANNA KNOW?
YOU HAD THE PRIEST PUT A BLIND-FOLD OVER THE CRUCIFIX, RIGHT?! WELL, HE CLEVERLY SCRATCHED YOUR COMPANY LOGO ON JESUS' RIGHT EYE!
"THE EYES TOLD ME WHO YOU WERE!"
RATS! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED!
OFF TO THE POLICE STATION WE GO!
THANKS AGAIN, ASTRO!


SEE? JESUS DOES WATCH OVER US...

YOUTH GAS

First serialized from February to September 1955 in *Shonen* magazine.

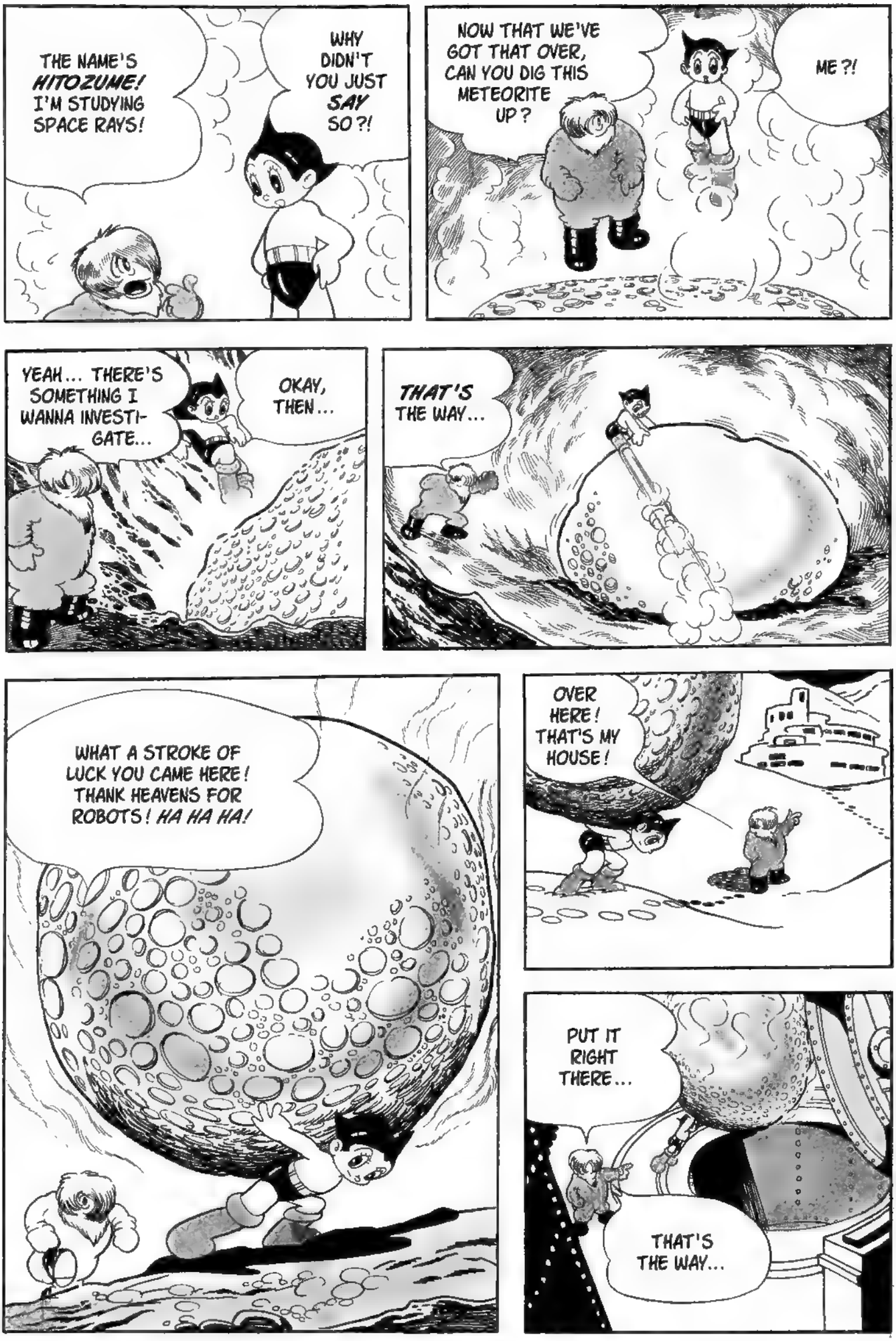
KAWWBOOOOOM


IT'S AN EARTH-QUAKE !!
IT'S IN THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST!
THINK IT WAS A METEOR ?!
HELLO? WHAT KIND OF READING DID YOU GUYS GET AT YOUR MONITORING SITE? WHAT? SOUTHWEST, 3° SOUTH?
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE, AT KOMA-GATAKE.
THAT'S A MOUNTAIN IN JAPAN'S SOUTHERN ALPS!!
GOOD THING IT WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND NOT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE...
IF IT WAS A METEOR, IT MUST BE A BIG ONE...
HUGE, IN FACT!
MAYBE AS BIG AS THAT ONE THAT LANDED IN ARIZONA, WHERE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CRATER IS...
THE VERY NEXT DAY...
HELLO? ASTRO? WE MAY HAVE HAD A METEOR LAND. CAN YOU GO WITH THE OBSERVATION PLANES TO CHECK OUT MT. KOMAGATAKE?

WOW... THIS IS TERRIBLE TURBU-LENCE...
WE'LL NEVER REACH THE SITE THIS WAY...
ASTRO! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LAND HERE!
WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOU...
YOU GO DOWN AND CHECK IT OUT, OKAY?
ROAR
THE METEOR MUST'VE LANDED AROUND HERE!
IS THIS MT. KOMAGATAKE?
THIS IS A ROUGH AREA, EVEN IN NORMAL TIMES...
ZOOOM
ROOAR
NO WAY WE CAN MONITOR THIS!!
FWOOSH

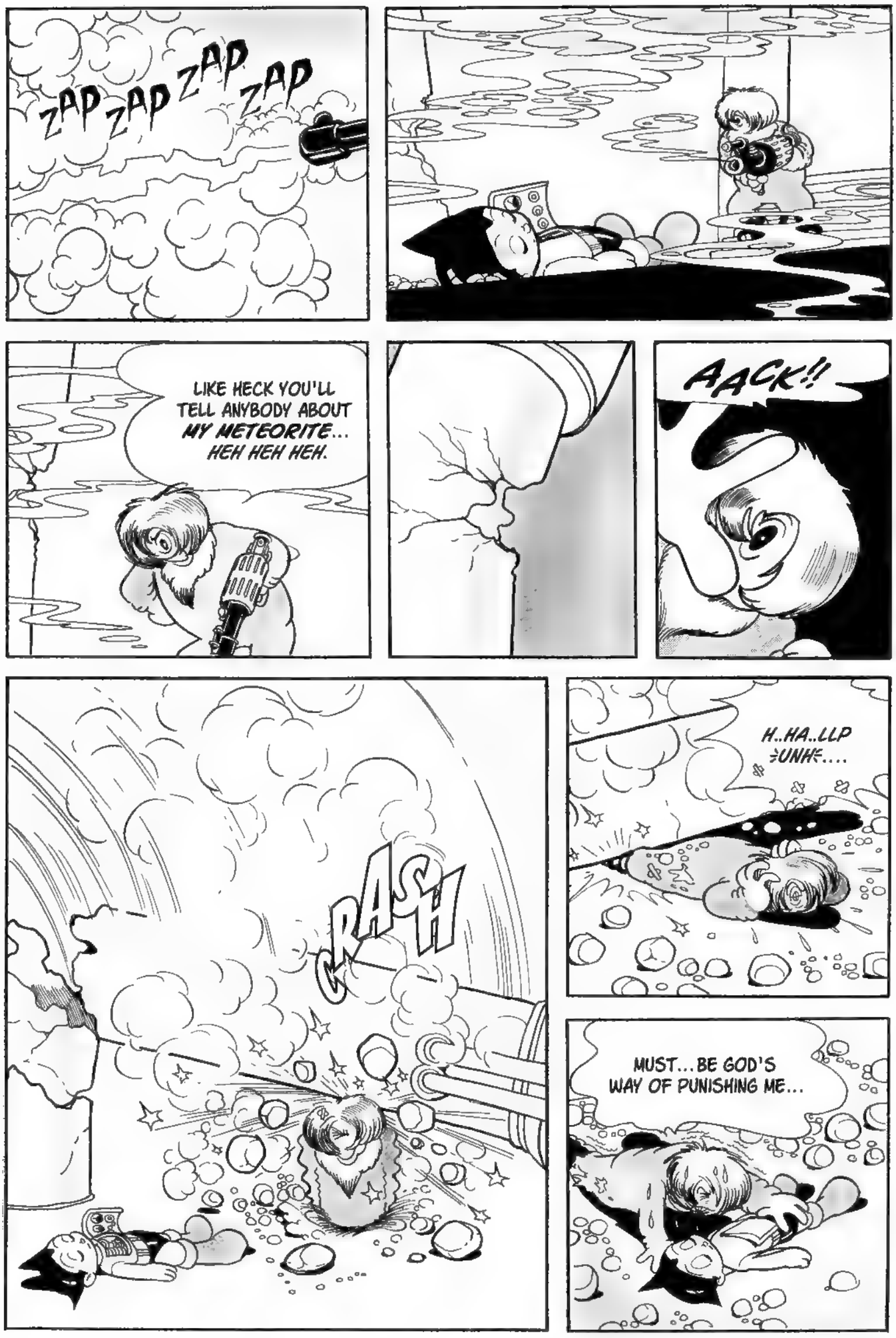
VOOOSH
ROAR
ROAR
MADE IT!
BUT I CAN HARDLY SEE!
FLASH
ROAR
RUMBLE
ROAR
SOMETHING MUST'VE MELTED THE SNOW AND CREATED THIS MIST...
ROAR
ROAR
SPLASH
SPASH
ROAR
ROAR
THIS MUST BE IT...
MUST'VE BEEN A METEOR ALL RIGHT...
WHA?! THERE'S SOMEONE THERE!!
HAHAHA!
HAHAHA!
HAHAHA!
HAHAHA!

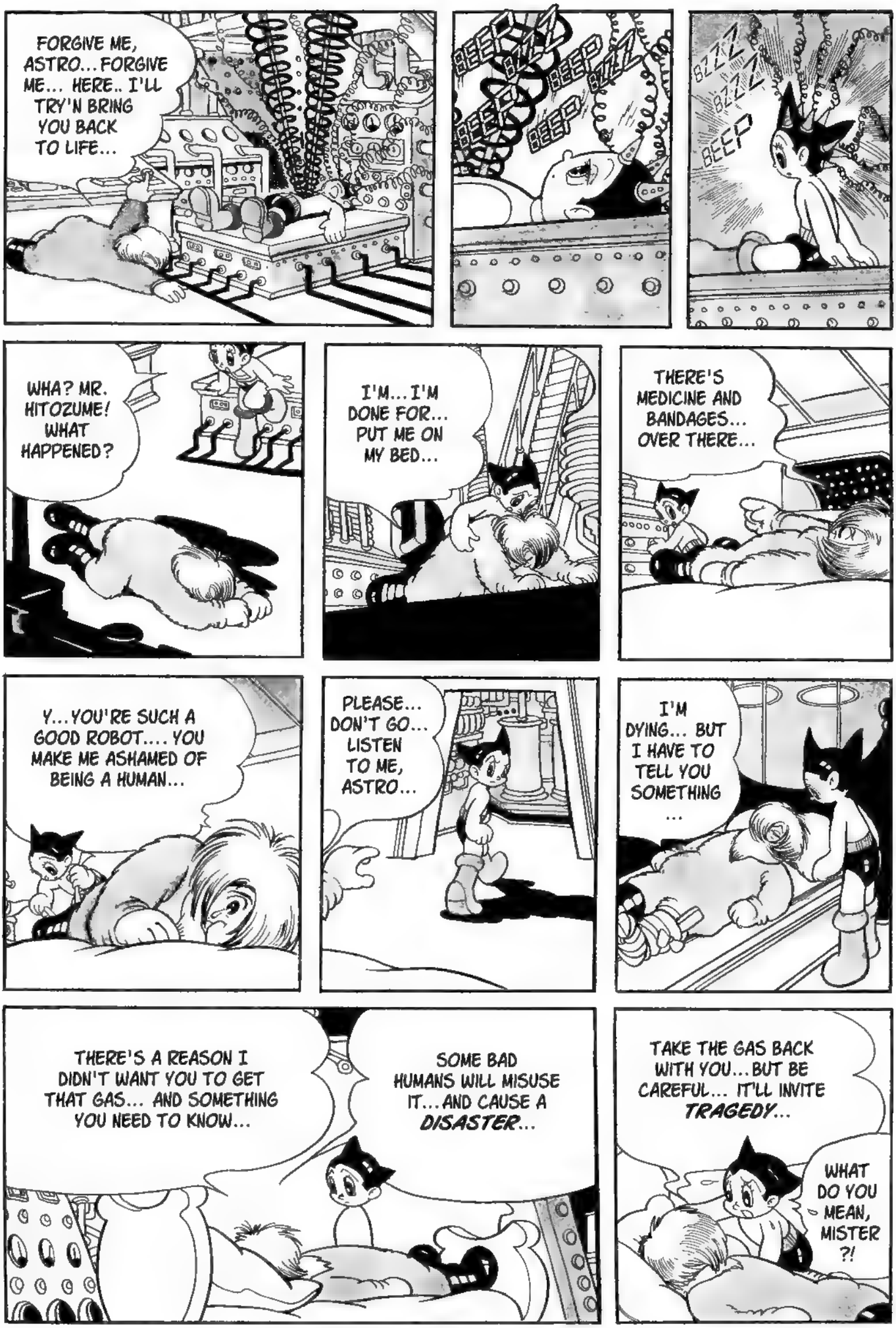
WHO'RE YOU, MISTER?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
I FOUND THIS FIRST!
IT'S MY METEOR-ITE!
HEY, I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED IT!
I JUST CAME TO INVESTI-GATE...
AH, BUT YOU'LL WIND UP WANTING IT!
IT'S ALL OVER, KID!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
WHA?! A ROBOT?! WAIT!
STOP! STOP! I WANNA TALK!!
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ROBOTS, OKAY?
I WON'T! I PROMISE! I'M SORRY!!


THE NAME'S HITOZUME! I'M STUDYING SPACE RAYS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO?!
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THAT OVER, CAN YOU DIG THIS METEORITE UP?
ME?!
YEAH... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA INVESTI-GATE...
OKAY, THEN...
THAT'S THE WAY...
WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK YOU CAME HERE! THANK HEAVENS FOR ROBOTS! HA HA HA!
OVER HERE! THAT'S MY HOUSE!
PUT IT RIGHT THERE...
THAT'S THE WAY...

HEH HEH HEH!
CHAK
GWA HA HA!
JUST AS I THOUGHT!!
WOOSH
WHAT'S JUST AS YOU THOUGHT, MISTER?
HEY! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
BUT I'LL TELL YOU ANYWAY...
HERE'S HOW I SEE IT, KID. SOMEWHERE, THERE WAS A PLANET WITH LIFE ON IT...
IT BLEW UP, AND PART OF IT FLEW ALL THE WAY HERE...

HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE WAS LIFE ON THE PLANET?
BECAUSE IT MAKES SENSE, KID!
IN OTHER WORDS...
...WE CAN USE THIS METEORITE ...
...TO DEMONSTRATE THERE WAS ONCE...
...LIFE ON THE PLANET!!
THE METEORITE'S GIVING OFF A GAS, SEE...
AND ALL THE PLANTS HERE LOVE IT!
MOREOVER, THE GAS SEEMS TO MAKE THEIR CELLS YOUNGER!
THIS GAS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE, THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH... IT'S AN ABSOLUTE MIRACLE...
WOW... I'D BETTER TELL THE PROFESSOR ...
BETTER TELL WHO?!
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU. HE'S WHY I'M HERE!

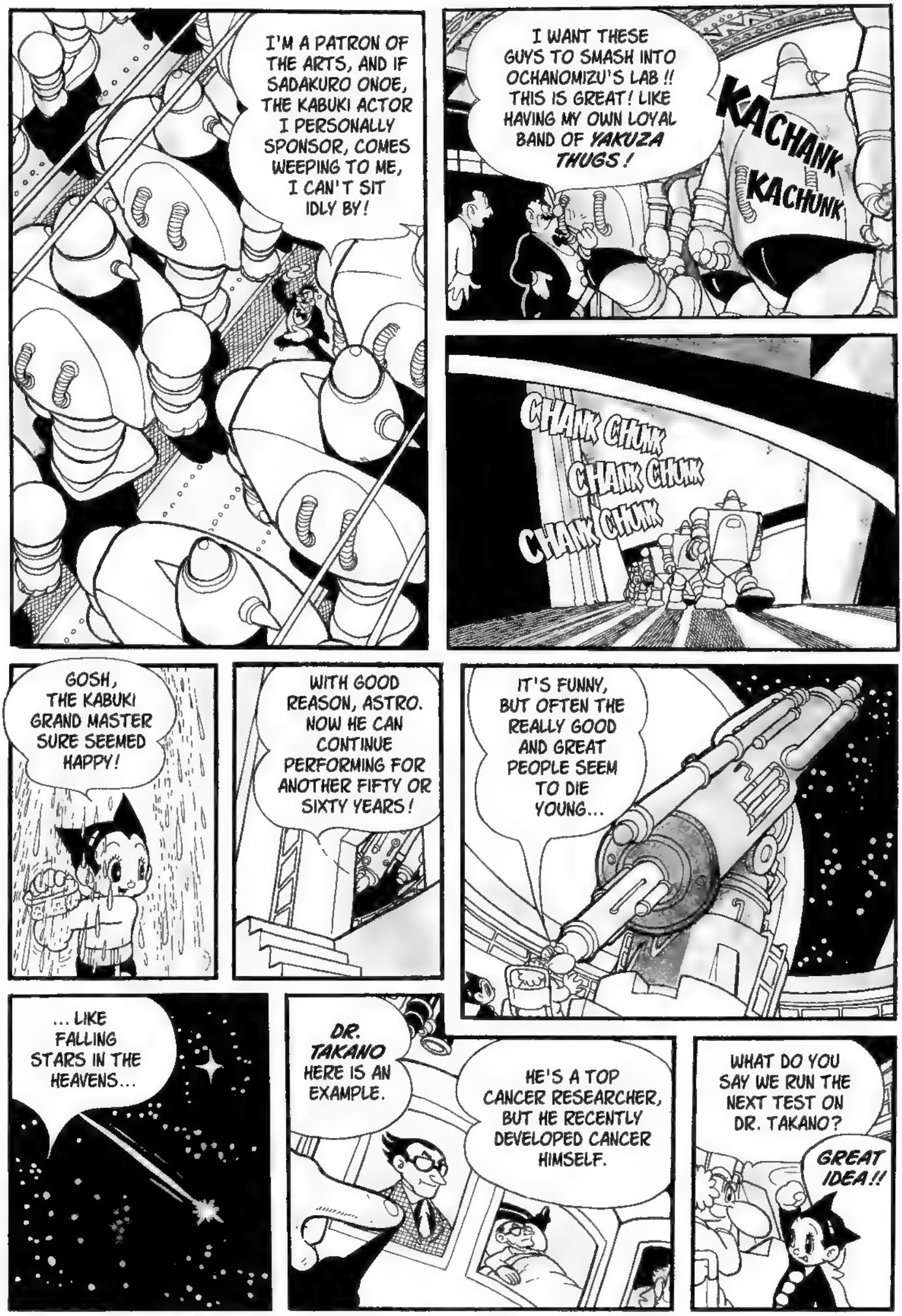

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
LIKE HECK YOU'LL TELL ANYBODY ABOUT MY METEORITE... HEH HEH HEH.
AACK!!
CRASH
H..HA..LLP UNHE....
MUST... BE GOD'S WAY OF PUNISHING ME...

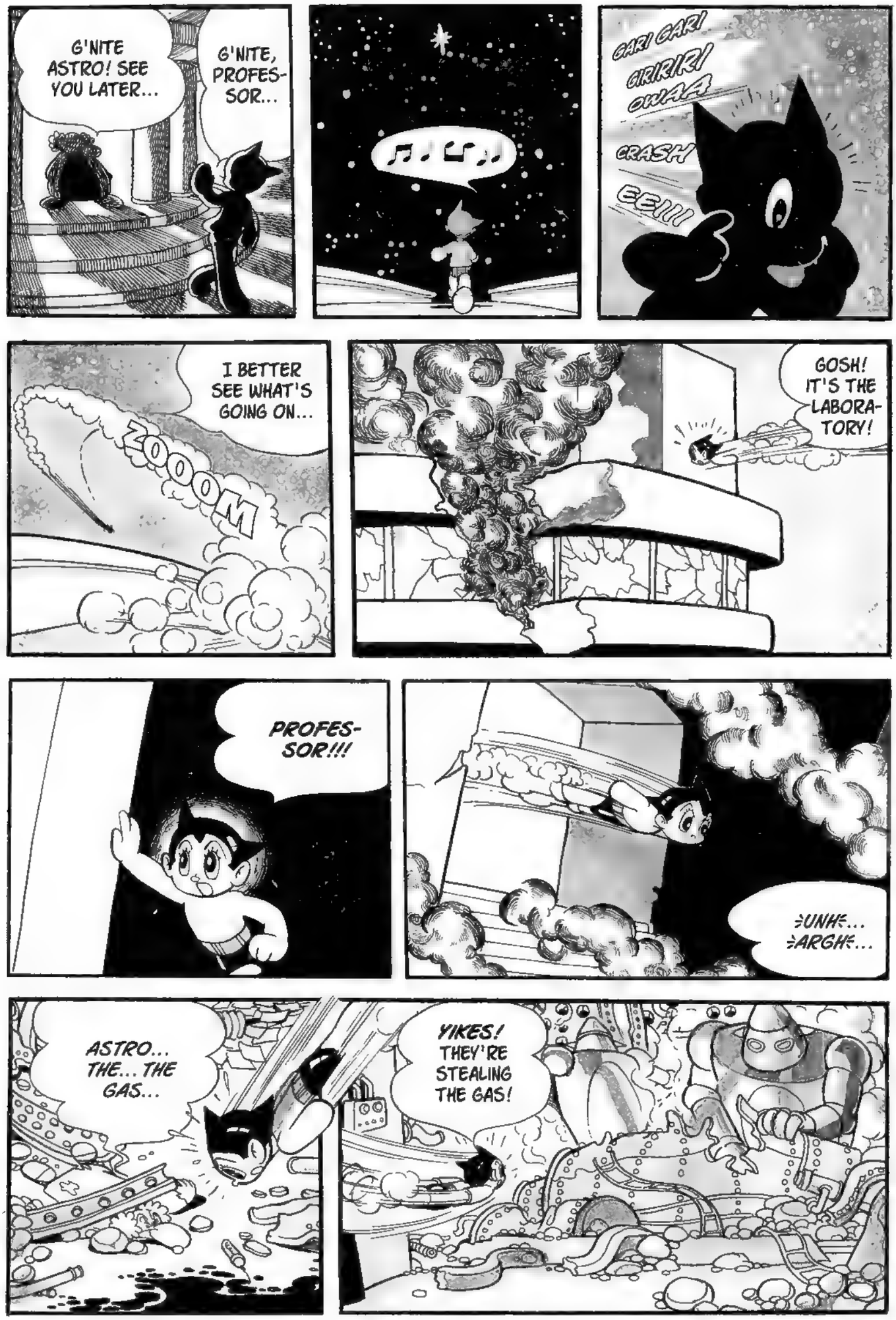

FORGIVE ME, ASTRO... FORGIVE ME... HERE.. I'LL TRY'N BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE...
BEEP BZZZ BEEP BEEP BZZZ BEEP
BZZZ BZZZ BEEP
WHA? MR. HITOZUME! WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M... I'M DONE FOR... PUT ME ON MY BED...
THERE'S MEDICINE AND BANDAGES... OVER THERE...
Y... YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD ROBOT.... YOU MAKE ME ASHAMED OF BEING A HUMAN...
PLEASE... DON'T GO... LISTEN TO ME, ASTRO...
I'M DYING... BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING ...
THERE'S A REASON I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET THAT GAS... AND SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...
SOME BAD HUMANS WILL MISUSE IT... AND CAUSE A DISASTER...
TAKE THE GAS BACK WITH YOU... BUT BE CAREFUL... IT'LL INVITE TRAGEDY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MISTER ?!

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ASTRO'S REPORT, INSPECTOR?
YOUTH GAS? HA! THAT'S THE CRAZIEST STORY I'VE EVER HEARD!
BUT LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT HE BROUGHT BACK...
DON'T FEEL BAD, ASTRO... IT'S NOT THAT THEY DON'T TRUST YOU, IT'S JUST TOO WILD AN IDEA...
WE'LL EXPERI-MENT WITH THESE ANIMALS ....
KOKKA DOODLE DOOO!!
INJECT THE GAS!
PSSHHH
WHA?! I HEAR THE SOUND OF CHICKS!
CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP
WOW ...
THEY'VE ...
... BECOME ...
... EGGS !!
THE GAS MUST'VE BEEN TOO STRONG...
ASTRO... YOUR REPORT WAS RIGHT ON TARGET!
ROBOTS DON'T LIE, PROFES-SOR!
YOUTH GAS!! HAH! WHAT A GAS!!
DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY, ASTRO? DON'T EVEN MENTION THE METEORITE...
OKAY ....
NEXT WE'LL NEED TO TEST IT ON A HUMAN! ANY VOLUNTEERS?!
THIS IS AMAZING... A FAMOUS ARTIST OR SCHOLAR COULD STAY YOUNG AND KEEP CREATING FOREVER!
SAY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA!!

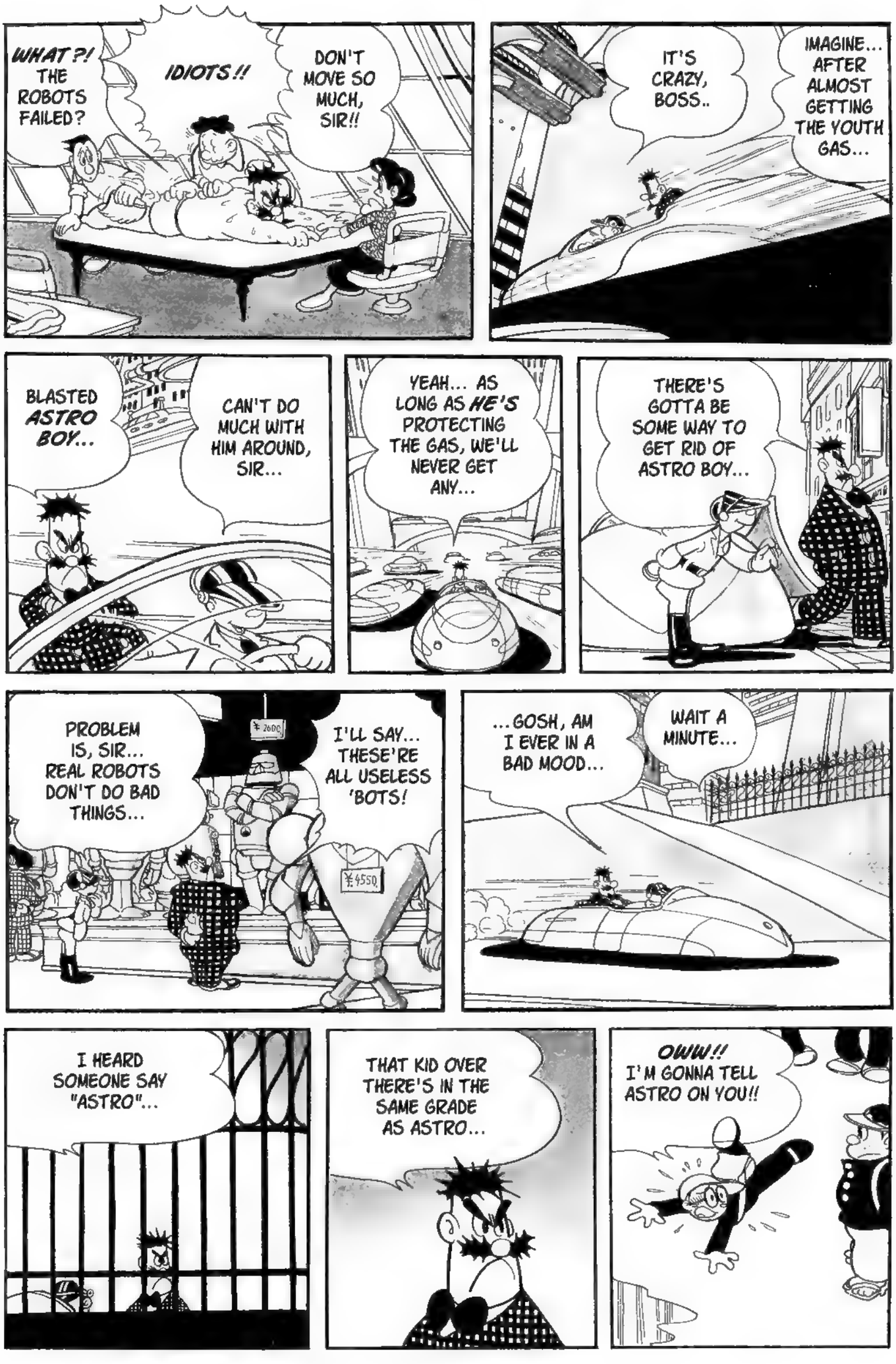
CHACK
PON PON
EIII
PON
BOMP
BOMPITY
PON
BOMP
BOMPITY
BOMP
MUST BE FROM THE UNDER-TAKER ...
CALL FOR KABUKI GRAND MASTER!
THINK HE'S WELL ENOUGH TO TAKE IT?
IT'S FOR YOU, GRAND MASTER...
HM.. HM.. HMPH...
GET ME DRESSED...
I'M GOING TO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S LAB, RIGHT AWAY!
...B-BUT...
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
THEY'VE INVENTED SOME YOUTH POTION, AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!
YOUTH POTION ...?
GOD BLESS YOU, GRAND MASTER!
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, FOLKS...
WHY THE BIG SEND OFF?
'CUZ WE DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF YOUTH GAS TO GIVE...
ONE MISTAKE, AND THE GRAND MASTER MIGHT REVERT TO A GRAND BABY...

RELEASE THE GAS!
HERE'S HOPING IT WORKS!
NAMU AMIDA BUTSU LORD BODHI-SATTVA IN PARADISE...
QUIET DURING THE EXPERIMENT, PLEASE!
WHA?!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS!!
GRAND MASTER!
EXALTED MASTER!
LOOK AT YOU!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN REBORN!
HELLO?
GET ME KUROBE OHNO!
PUBLIC TV PHONE
OHNO HERE... WHAT IS IT?
MR. OHNO, SIR?
IT'S ME! SADAKURO, THE GRAND MASTER'S DISCIPLE!
WHERE THE HECK ARE YOU, SADA?
I'M AT PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S LAB, BOSS! THE GRAND MASTER'S BEEN REBORN!
HE WHAT?!
OCHANOMIZU'S BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH SOME YOUTH GAS HE GOT HOLD OF...
NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO INHERIT THE GRAND MASTER'S NAME!!


I'M A PATRON OF THE ARTS, AND IF SADAKURO ONOE, THE KABUKI ACTOR I PERSONALLY SPONSOR, COMES WEEPING TO ME, I CAN'T SIT IDLY BY!
I WANT THESE GUYS TO SMASH INTO OCHANOMIZU'S LAB !! THIS IS GREAT! LIKE HAVING MY OWN LOYAL BAND OF YAKUZA THUGS!
KACHANK KACHUNK
CHAIK CHUK CHAIK CHUK CHAIK CHUK
GOSH, THE KABUKI GRAND MASTER SURE SEEMED HAPPY!
WITH GOOD REASON, ASTRO. NOW HE CAN CONTINUE PERFORMING FOR ANOTHER FIFTY OR SIXTY YEARS!
IT'S FUNNY, BUT OFTEN THE REALLY GOOD AND GREAT PEOPLE SEEM TO DIE YOUNG...
... LIKE FALLING STARS IN THE HEAVENS...
DR. TAKANO HERE IS AN EXAMPLE.
HE'S A TOP CANCER RESEARCHER, BUT HE RECENTLY DEVELOPED CANCER HIMSELF.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE RUN THE NEXT TEST ON DR. TAKANO?
GREAT IDEA!!

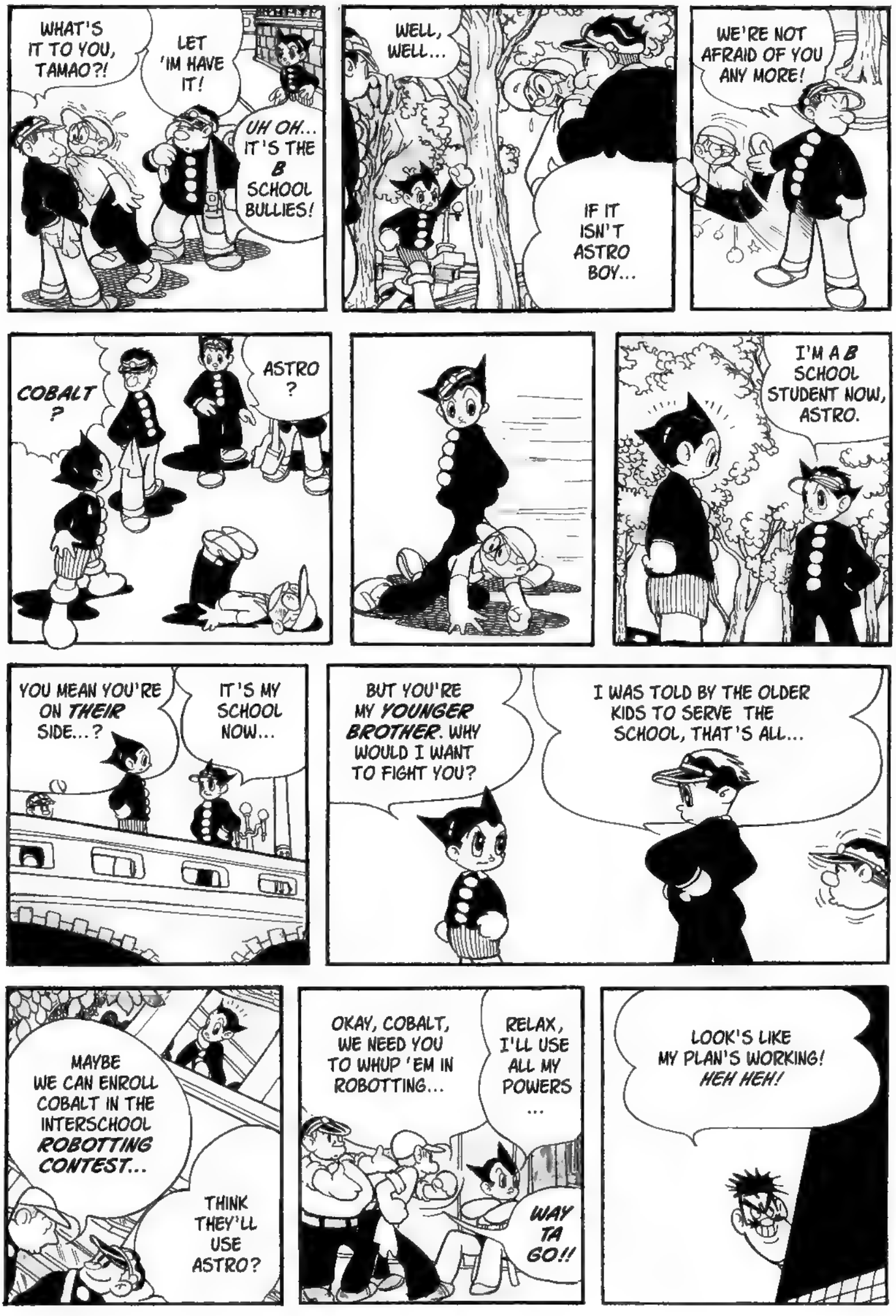

G'NITE ASTRO! SEE YOU LATER...
G'NITE, PROFES-SOR...
CARI CARI
CRASH
EE!!!
I BETTER SEE WHAT'S GOING ON...
ZOOOM
GOSH! IT'S THE LABORA-TORY!
PROFES-SOR!!!
=UNH=...
=ARGH=...
ASTRO... THE... THE GAS...
YIKES! THEY'RE STEALING THE GAS!

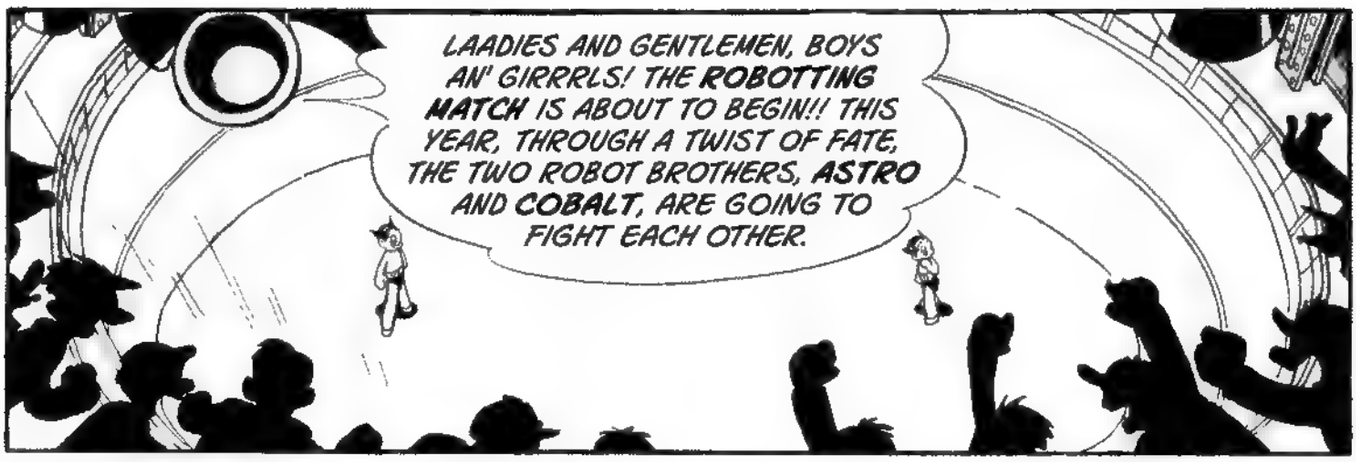
HE'S DRINKING IT!!
HIC...
BASH
WHAT'S WITH YOU LUNKHEADS?!
YOU MUST BE SLAVE ROBOTS !!
LET GO OF ME!!
GIRI GIRI
KABASH
SORRY, PAL...
PROFES-SOR...
HELLO? THERE'S AN EMERGENCY IN THE LAB!
SO ROBOTS WERE BEHIND THIS, EH?
YOU MEAN THEY TRIED TO STEAL THE GAS?

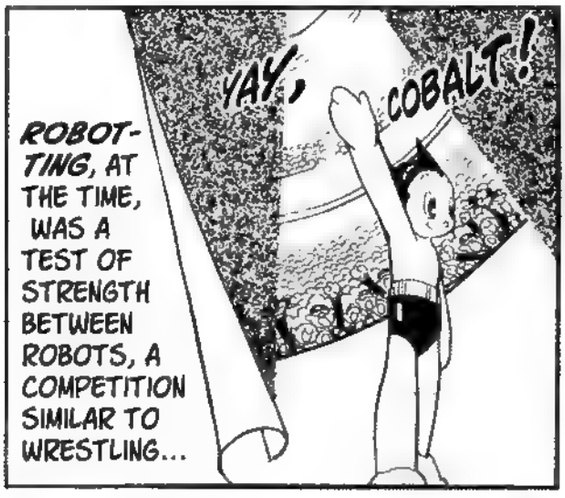

WHAT?! THE ROBOTS FAILED?
IDIOTS!!
DON'T MOVE SO MUCH, SIR!!
IT'S CRAZY, BOSS..
IMAGINE... AFTER ALMOST GETTING THE YOUTH GAS...
BLASTED ASTRO BOY...
CAN'T DO MUCH WITH HIM AROUND, SIR...
YEAH... AS LONG AS HE'S PROTECTING THE GAS, WE'LL NEVER GET ANY...
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME WAY TO GET RID OF ASTRO BOY...
PROBLEM IS, SIR... REAL ROBOTS DON'T DO BAD THINGS...
¥2600
I'LL SAY... THESE'RE ALL USELESS 'BOTS!
¥4550
...GOSH, AM I EVER IN A BAD MOOD...
WAIT A MINUTE...
I HEARD SOMEONE SAY "ASTRO"...
THAT KID OVER THERE'S IN THE SAME GRADE AS ASTRO...
OWW!! I'M GONNA TELL ASTRO ON YOU!!

ASTRO'S REAL STRONG, SO YOU GUYS BETTER WATCH OUT!!
HAR!! WHO'S AFRAID OF ASTRO ?!
PICK UP MY SANDAL, TAMAO!!
PICK IT UP AND PUT IT ON MY FOOT, PUNK!!
UH OH... IT'S ASTRO !!
HEY, WAZZAMATTER ?! DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SANDAL ?!
DON'T YOU WANT ME TO PUT IT ON YOU ? B SCHOOL SCAREDY-CATS!
RATS! IF ONLY OUR SCHOOL HAD A KID LIKE ASTRO...
ASTRO'S GOT A YOUNGER BROTHER NAMED COBALT... MAYBE HE'D ENROLL IN OUR SCHOOL...
SO... ASTRO HAS A BROTHER NAMED COBALT!
HMM... THIS IS GOOD INFORMATION!
MAYBE I CAN GET COBALT TO FIGHT ASTRO!!

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY TO ENROLLING COBALT IN B SCHOOL, PROFESSOR?
COBALT? HM.
DOESN'T SEEM FAIR IF ONLY ASTRO GETS TO GO TO SCHOOL...
I'VE GOT A FRIEND WHO WORKS THERE. HE'D ENROLL COBALT RIGHT AWAY.
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH ASTRO'S SCHOOL?
AH, BUT WE NOSE THAT SEPARATE SCHOOLS ARE BETTER...
COBALT, COME HERE...
YESSIR ...
WANNA GO TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, COBALT?
COBALT IS IT? WAY TA GO, KIDDO!
THANKS !!
HAVING ENTERED B SCHOOL, YA GOTTA BE LOYAL, OKAY?!
NOW WE'RE TALKIN! COBALT'S ON OUR SIDE!
YAY FOR CO-BALT!


WHAT'S IT TO YOU, TAMAO?!
LET 'IM HAVE IT!
UH OH... IT'S THE B SCHOOL BULLIES!
WELL, WELL...
IF IT ISN'T ASTRO BOY...
WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANY MORE!
COBALT ?
ASTRO ?
I'M A B SCHOOL STUDENT NOW, ASTRO.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE...?
IT'S MY SCHOOL NOW...
BUT YOU'RE MY YOUNGER BROTHER. WHY WOULD I WANT TO FIGHT YOU?
I WAS TOLD BY THE OLDER KIDS TO SERVE THE SCHOOL, THAT'S ALL...
MAYBE WE CAN ENROLL COBALT IN THE INTERSCHOOL ROBOTTING CONTEST...
THINK THEY'LL USE ASTRO?
OKAY, COBALT, WE NEED YOU TO WHUP 'EM IN ROBOTTING...
RELAX, I'LL USE ALL MY POWERS ...
WAY TA GO!!
LOOK'S LIKE MY PLAN'S WORKING! HEH HEH!

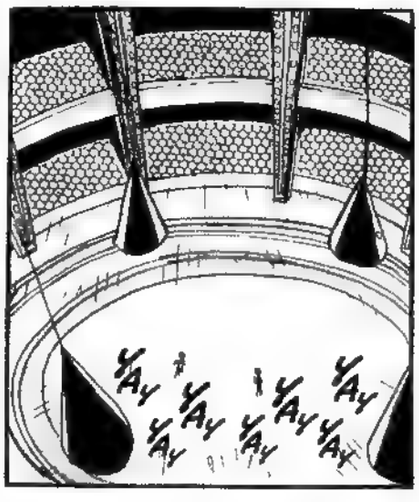

LAADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BOYS AN' GIRRRLS! THE ROBOTTING MATCH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!! THIS YEAR, THROUGH A TWIST OF FATE, THE TWO ROBOT BROTHERS, ASTRO AND COBALT, ARE GOING TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.


ROBOT-TING, AT THE TIME, WAS A TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN ROBOTS, A COMPETITION SIMILAR TO WRESTLING...
YAY, COBALT!

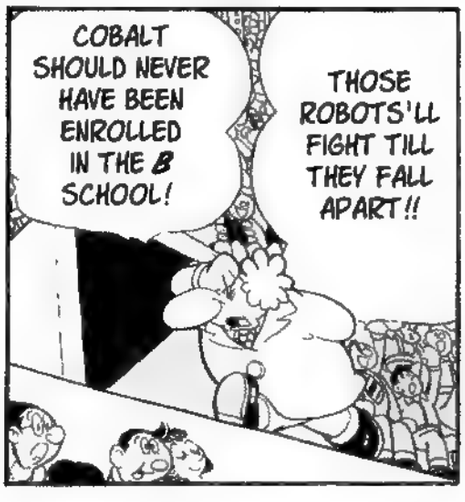
YAY, ASTRO!

GO, COBALT! TEAR ASTRO APART!
WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU!

O, ALMA MATER, OH HOORAY, NOW OUR COBALT SAVES THE DAY!


YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY

GOSH... THIS IS TERRIBLE!!


COBALT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ENROLLED IN THE B SCHOOL!
THOSE ROBOTS'LL FIGHT TILL THEY FALL APART!!

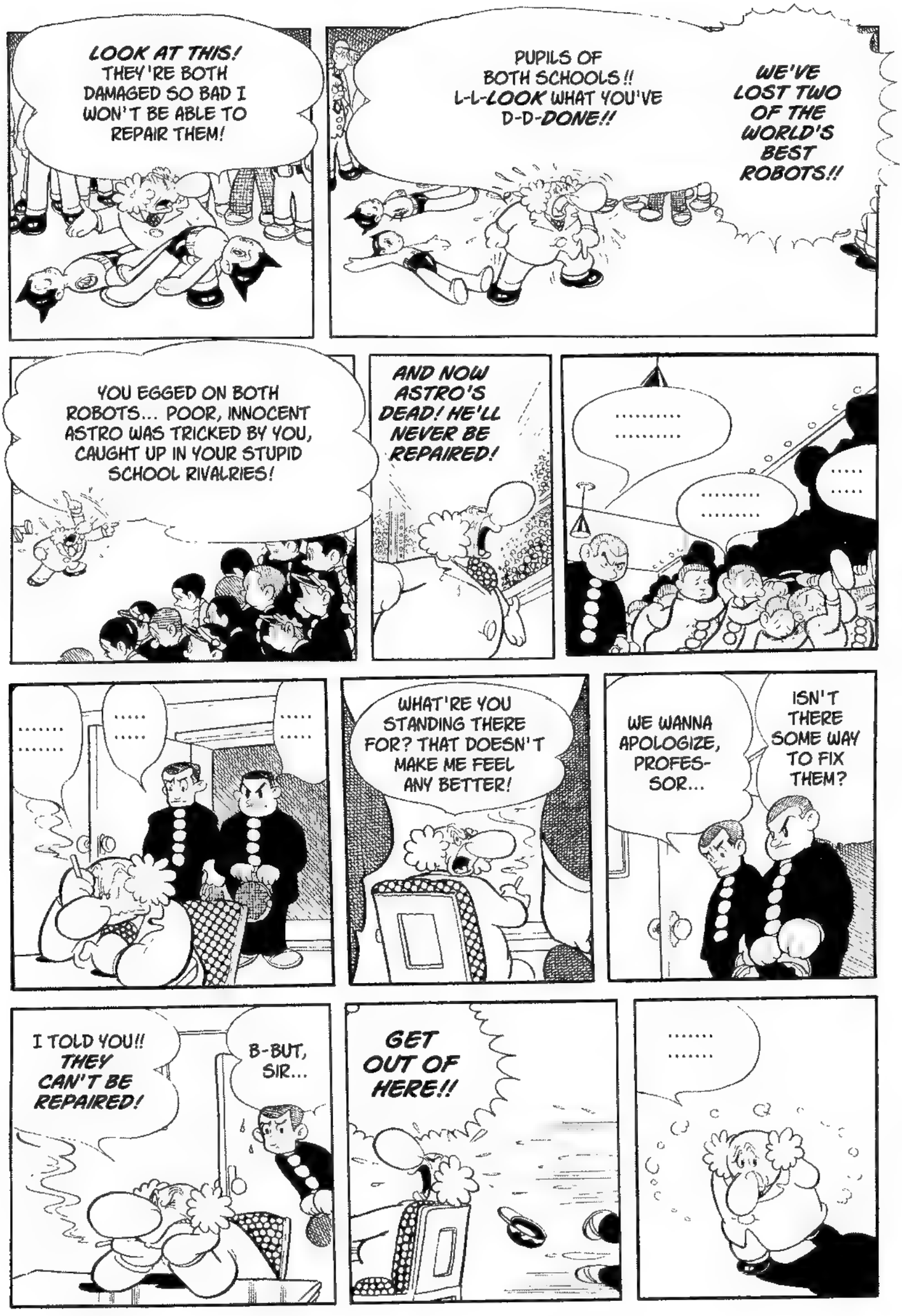
THEY'RE BOTH ALL FIRED UP TO GO AT EACH OTHER... WHAT'LL I DO?!
I FEEL TERRI-BLE!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...
AND ALL BECAUSE I GAVE IN TO OHNO'S SALES PITCH...

I DIDN'T TAKE THE MATTER THAT SERIOUSLY...
...BUT NOW I SEE OHNO HAD SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE.
OUR TWO COMBATANTS HAVE FACED OFF FOR A TEN-MINUTE MATCH!
CLANG
YAY
SIC 'IM, COBALT! FOR THE SAKE OF B SCHOOL!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, COBALT!
TAKE THIS!
THINK COBALT'LL WIN, MR. OHNO?
HA HA... I'D SAY IT'S A DRAW, SADA!
A DRAW?!
BOTH OF 'EM WILL BE DESTROYED!
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU SAID COBALT AND ASTRO BASICALLY HAVE THE SAME BODIES. THAT MEANS WHEN COBALT'S DONE FOR, SO'S ASTRO!
AND ONCE WE'VE GOT ASTRO 'AN COBALT OUT OF THE WAY...
...WE CAN DO ANY-THING WE WANT!
PSST... GET READY TO ATTACK OCHANOMIZU'S LAB WITH THOSE NEW MADE-IN-THE-USA ROBOTS...
I'LL GET THAT YOUTH GAS YET...
LOOK, MR. OHNO! LOOK!

YAY, COBALT!
GRAB HIM!
HEY! SIT DOWN IN FRONT, FAT HEAD!
WHO'S THROWING BOOGER KLEENEX FROM THE BALCONY?
GO COBALT !!
YAY, ASTRO!
THE GIRLS LOVE YOU!
YAY, ASTRO !!
ASTROO! WE LOOOVE YOU!
DON'T GIVE IN! FIGHT TO THE END!
SO WHO'S GONNA WIN?
HM... THE STRONG ONE'LL PROLLY WIN, AND THE WEAK ONE'LL PROLLY LOSE...
LISTEN, YOU'VE GOTTA STOP THEM!!
IT'S TOO LATE, PROFES-SOR...
TAKE THIS!
WHAP
WHAP

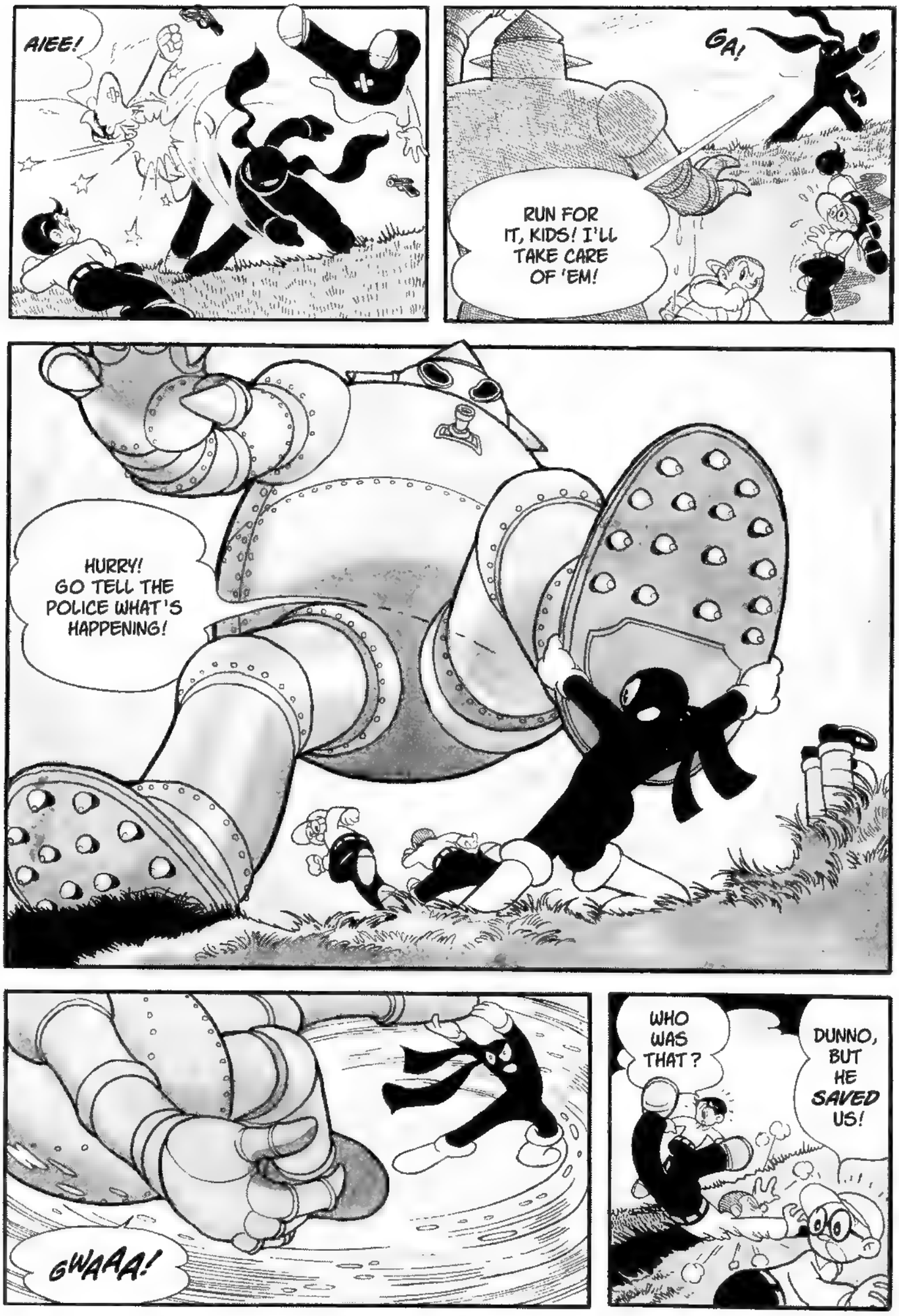
VOOSH
WHOA!
VROOOM
HERE COMES A BODY BLOW!
KABAAM
=ARGH!=
YAY! ASTRO WINS! COBALT LOSES!
WAY TA GO, ASTRO!
WHA?! ASTRO'S COLLAPSED!

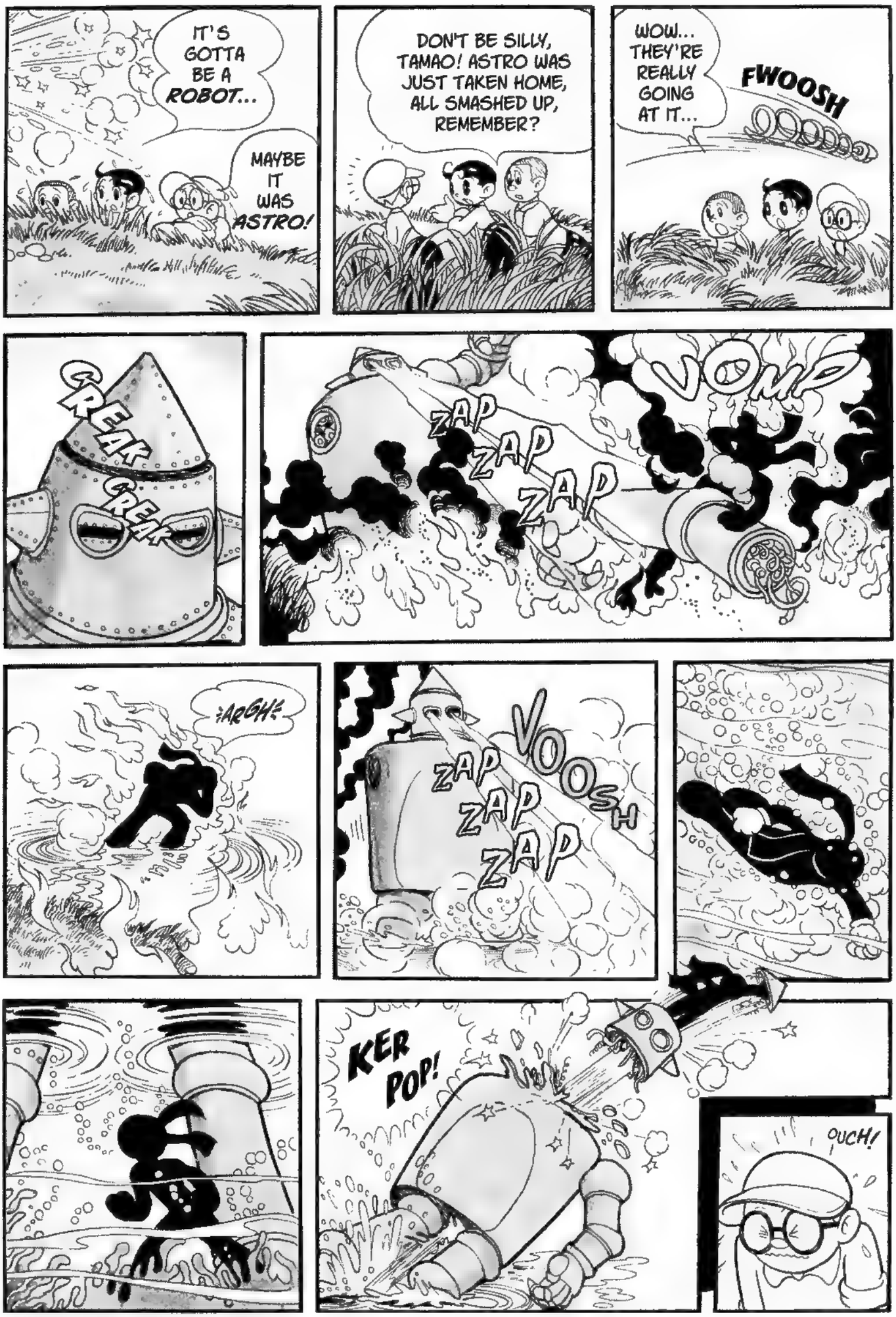

LOOK AT THIS! THEY'RE BOTH DAMAGED SO BAD I WON'T BE ABLE TO REPAIR THEM!
PUPILS OF BOTH SCHOOLS!! L-L-LOOK WHAT YOU'VE D-D-DONE!!
WE'VE LOST TWO OF THE WORLD'S BEST ROBOTS!!
YOU EGGED ON BOTH ROBOTS... POOR, INNOCENT ASTRO WAS TRICKED BY YOU, CAUGHT UP IN YOUR STUPID SCHOOL RIVALRIES!
AND NOW ASTRO'S DEAD! HE'LL NEVER BE REPAIRED!
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
WHAT'RE YOU STANDING THERE FOR? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER!
WE WANNA APOLOGIZE, PROFES-SOR...
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY TO FIX THEM?
I TOLD YOU!! THEY CAN'T BE REPAIRED!
B-BUT, SIR...
GET OUT OF HERE!!
.....
.....

BRRING
PROFESSOR! SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED!
WHAT IS IT?!
ROBOTS HAVE ATTACKED THE LAB AGAIN! THEY MADE A MESS OF IT!!
WHAT ABOUT THE YOUTH GAS?!
THE ROBOTS STOLE IT ALL... WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
ASTRO...
MY POOR BABY! YOU CAN'T BE DEAD!!
MAYBE WE SHOULD PRAY FOR HIS SOUL, DEAR...
DON'T BE SO CRUEL... IF ONLY WE COULD BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE...

ASTRO SURE WAS A GOOD PAL...
AND BRAVE, TOO!
HEY, KEN! C'MERE QUICK!
WHAT? YOU SAW GIANT ROBOTS IN OUR POND?
YEAH! LOOKS LIKE THE SAME ONE THAT ATTACKED THE PROFES-SOR'S LAB!!
WE'VE GOTTA TELL THE POLICE!
NOT SO FAST!
YOU'RE NEAR-SIGHTED AND THAT POND'S DEEP... YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T SEE SOME OLD DRUM CANS?
LET'S GO DOUBLE-CHECK, GUYS!
THE POND'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE PROFESSOR'S LAB...
TREAT NATURE WITH CARE
PROTECT TOKYO
I WAS FISHING, AND SUDDENLY SAW IT...
NOT MUCH OF A POND...
I'LL CHECK UNDER-WATER...
BE CAREFUL, TANAKA...

DON'T FALL INTO ANY HOLES, TANAKA!
GLUE
BUBBLE BUBBLE BUBBLE
GLUE
GLUE
HEHEH... THAT KID PEEKED IN THE POND... BUT WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!!
CHAK
WOW... TAMAO WAS RIGHT, GUYS!
WATCH OUT BEHIND YOU!!
?
NYUUUM
SPLOOSH
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT!
THAT'S IT!!
RUN FOR IT, GUYS! DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME!
YOU STUPID BRATS, NOBODY RUNS....
AFTER THIS, WE CAN'T LET YOU GO...
YIKES!


AIEE!
GA!
RUN FOR IT, KIDS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM!
HURRY! GO TELL THE POLICE WHAT'S HAPPENING!
GWAAA!
WHO WAS THAT?
DUNNO, BUT HE SAVED US!


IT'S GOTTA BE A ROBOT...
MAYBE IT WAS ASTRO!
DON'T BE SILLY, TAMAO! ASTRO WAS JUST TAKEN HOME, ALL SMASHED UP, REMEMBER?
WOW... THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT...
FWOOSH
CREAK CREAK
ZAP ZAP ZAP
VOMP
ARGH!
VOOSH
ZAP ZAP ZAP
KER POP!
OUCH!

BOY, HE SURE WHUPPED THAT ROBOT EASILY...
I'M AMAZED ...
.....
ALL THE ROBOTS UNDERWATER ARE RUNNING AWAY!
STOP!!
SMASH
SMASH
SPLOOSH
KASPLORSH

UH OH... THE ROBOT STOMACHS WERE ALL FULL OF YOUTH GAS!!
...AND IT'S ESCAPING INTO THE AIR!
PHWWSH
BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE...
WHO WAS THAT MASKED GUY, ANYWAY?
CAN'T BE ASTRO BOY...
LOOK! HE FORGOT TO SMASH ONE OF THE ROBOTS!
THANK HEAVENS! AT LEAST WE'VE GOT ONE LEFT!
HOLY COW...
WHO COULD DO THIS?
PROFESSOR, THE ONLY ROBOTS CAPABLE OF THIS ARE ASTRO AN' COBALT...
NO... THERE MIGHT BE SOME OTHER ROBOT OUT THERE...

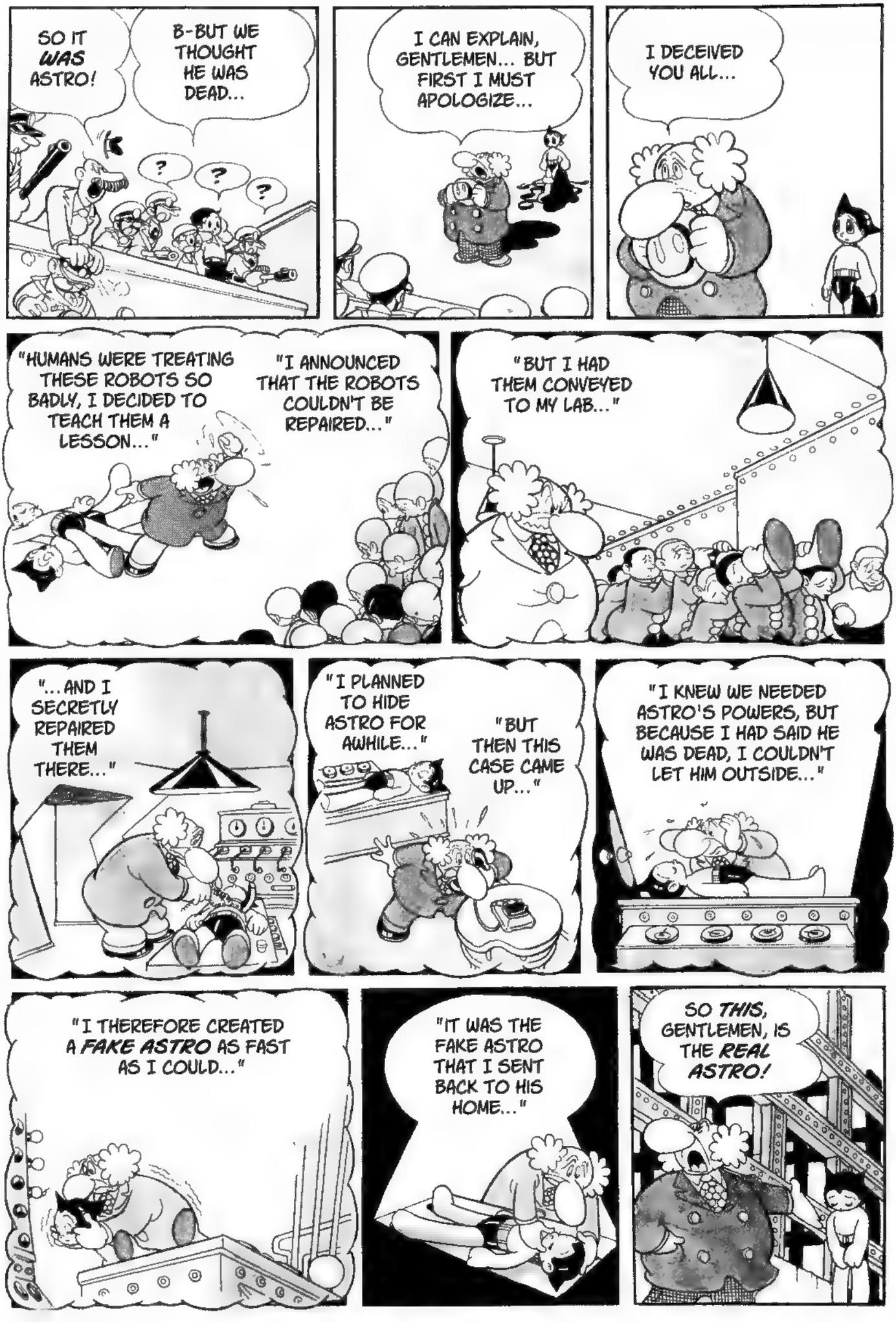
YOU MEAN FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY?
IT'S POSSIBLE.... WE CAN'T RULE IT OUT...
EENIE MEENIE... LOOK, NINETEEN SMASHED ROBOTS!
WHAT AN ODD NUMBER ...
SIR! I FOUND FOOT-PRINTS!
SO ONE GOT AWAY, EH?
ONLY ONE SURVIVED, BOSS! BUT HE'S GOT LOTS OF THAT YOUTH GAS IN HIS STOMACH!
HM... ENOUGH TO MAKE ME YOUNG...
BUT IF I HAD EVEN MORE... I COULD SELL IT 'ROUND THE WORLD FOR A FORTUNE!!
AT ANY RATE, TRANSFER IT TO A CYCLINDER...
HEH HEH HEH! I CAN HARDLY WAIT. I'LL REVERT TO MY TEENS, OR MY TWENTIES!
BE CAREFUL, BOSS... YOU'RE NOT A SCIENTIST ...
YEAH, BUT I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS GAS...
DON'T LET ANY ONE IN!!
I'LL BE YOUNG AGAIN! HEH HEH! OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
WONDER WHAT THE BOSS'LL DO WHEN HE'S YOUNGER...
PROB'LY TRY TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY...

THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN!
EEEK! IT'S HIM!
TELL ME WHERE THE GAS IS!
HELP! WE'LL TALK!
THE BOSS IS USING IT...
BOOM
OH, NO! THE GAS CYCLINDER BLEW UP!
IT WHAT ?!
UH, OH... TOO LATE ...
DON'T INHALE THIS STUFF! COVER YOUR NOSE WITH A HANDKERCHIEF!
WHERE'S THE BOSS ?!
=HACK= =GAG=
THERE HE IS!
OUT OF THE WAY!

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME...
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT!? IT'S YOUR BOSS, MR. OHNO!!
EGADS...
HE BREATHED TOO MUCH YOUTH GAS... ANOTHER SECOND AND IT WOULDN'VE BEEN ALL OVER...
Y'MEAN... THAT BABY'S OUR BOSS?
YES, AND THAT'S THE END OF ALL THE GAS...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS WHOLE CASE HAS BEEN SHROUDED IN MIST FROM THE BEGINNING...
BOSS, WE HARDLY RECOGNIZE YA... HEH HEH...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WHOOPS!
YOU GUYS CAN RAISE HIM, BUT THIS TIME MAKE SURE HE TURNS INTO A GOOD GUY!
GOOD KID, GOOOD KID... ATTABOY...
I'LL GO BUY SOME DIAPERS IF YOU'LL FEED HIM WITH A BOTTLE...
KITCHY KOO
WAA AH
I SAW EVERY-THING ...

I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT OHNO, SO I'VE BEEN HIDING HERE...
THE GAS ESCAPES... OH NO TURNS INTO A BABY... BUT THAT'S NOT THE END OF THIS CASE...
THERE'S MORE TO COME!
TIME TO TAKE OFF THE MASK, PAL...
I WANNA SEE WHAT KIND OF MONSTER YOU ARE...
I SAID, TAKE IT OFF!
.....
.....
YOU WANNA FIGHT ME, EH? WELL, ROBOTS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO FIGHT HUMANS! HA HA!
'SPECIALLY IF YOU KNOW I'M A GOOD PERSON!
JUST TRY AND ESCAPE ...
LAND, AIR, OR SEA... I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE CAUGHT!
WHEEEEE
WHEEE
ARF
ARF
WHEE

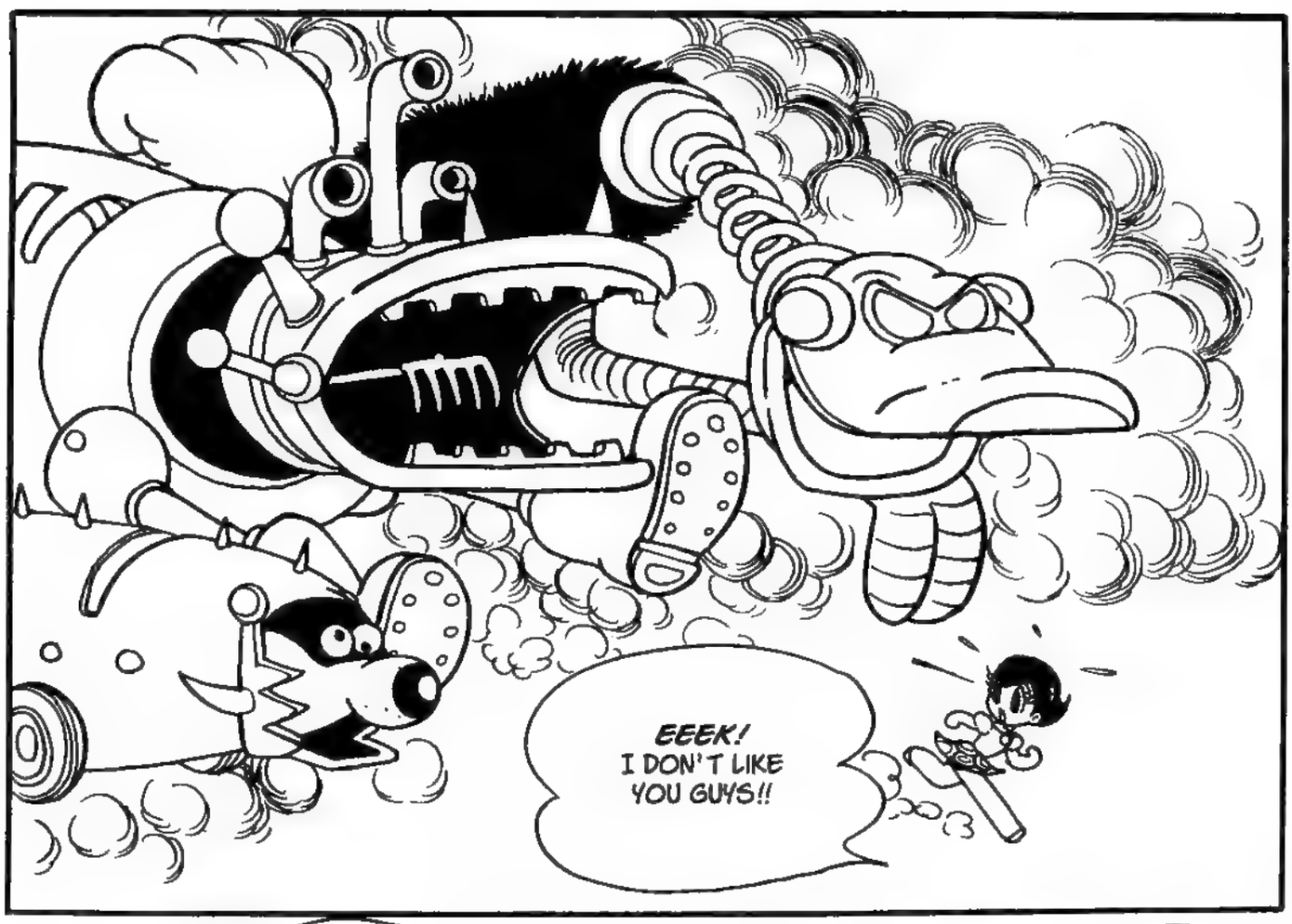
WHEEE
WHEEE
WHEEE
WHEEEEE
WHEEE
WE'VE GOT THE MONSTER TRAPPED!
IF HE COMES THIS WAY, WE'LL MELT HIS FACE MASK WITH OUR THERMAL RAY PISTOLS!
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DESTROY HIM! WE NEED HIM ALIVE TO FIND OUT WHAT COUNTRY HE'S FROM!
HERE HE COMES !!
PROFESSOR! STOP! COME BACK!
STOP! COME NO FURTHER!
TAKE OFF THAT MASK! IT'S NO USE HIDING ANY MORE!
A... ASTRO ?!!
NOW TAKE OFF THE SUIT ...

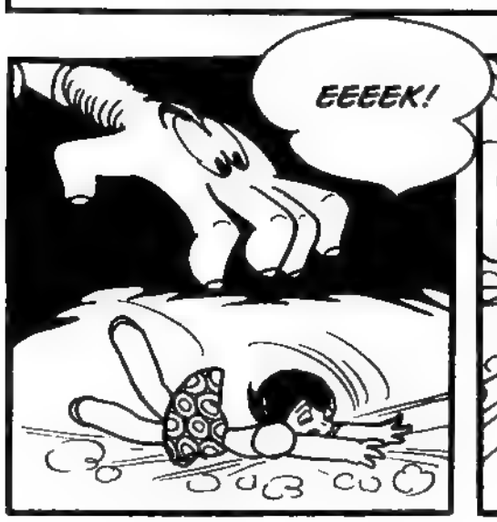

SO IT WAS ASTRO!
B-BUT WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD...
?
?
?
I CAN EXPLAIN, GENTLEMEN... BUT FIRST I MUST APOLOGIZE...
I DECEIVED YOU ALL...
"HUMANS WERE TREATING THESE ROBOTS SO BADLY, I DECIDED TO TEACH THEM A LESSON..."
"I ANNOUNCED THAT THE ROBOTS COULDN'T BE REPAIRED..."
"BUT I HAD THEM CONVEYED TO MY LAB..."
"...AND I SECRETLY REPAIRED THEM THERE..."
"I PLANNED TO HIDE ASTRO FOR AWHILE..."
"BUT THEN THIS CASE CAME UP..."
"I KNEW WE NEEDED ASTRO'S POWERS, BUT BECAUSE I HAD SAID HE WAS DEAD, I COULDN'T LET HIM OUTSIDE..."
"I THEREFORE CREATED A FAKE ASTRO AS FAST AS I COULD..."
"IT WAS THE FAKE ASTRO THAT I SENT BACK TO HIS HOME..."
SO THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS THE REAL ASTRO!

YAY! I NEVER BELIEVED ASTRO COULDN'T BE REPAIRED! IT WOULDA BEEN THE END OF THIS MANGA!
WELL, GENTLEMEN, IT'S THE TRUTH... I CREATED A LITTLE DRAMA ALL OF MY OWN...
HIP HIP HOORAY FOR ASTRO!
ASTRO, BANZAI!!
YOUR LITTLE DRAMA SURE GAVE US A SCARE, PROFESSOR...
BUT THINK ABOUT IT. I KNOW HOW HE FEELS...
OKAY, KIDS! FROM NOW ON, WE TREAT ROBOTS BETTER!!
WE DON'T MAKE THEM FIGHT, OKAY?
YEAH! I SECOND THAT!
YAY
YAY!
YAY
PROFESSOR...
THERE'S NO MORE YOUTH GAS...
I KNOW, ASTRO ...
WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT IT....
WE HUMANS WANT TO LIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT BEFORE THAT WE'VE GOT TO BECOME BETTER HUMANS...

BROADCASTS FROM OUTER SPACE

First serialized in the December 1965 and January 1966 editions of *Tetsuwan Atom Club*.


EEEK!
I DON'T LIKE
YOU GUYS!!


EEEEK!

STOP
OR I'LL
GET
ANGRY!

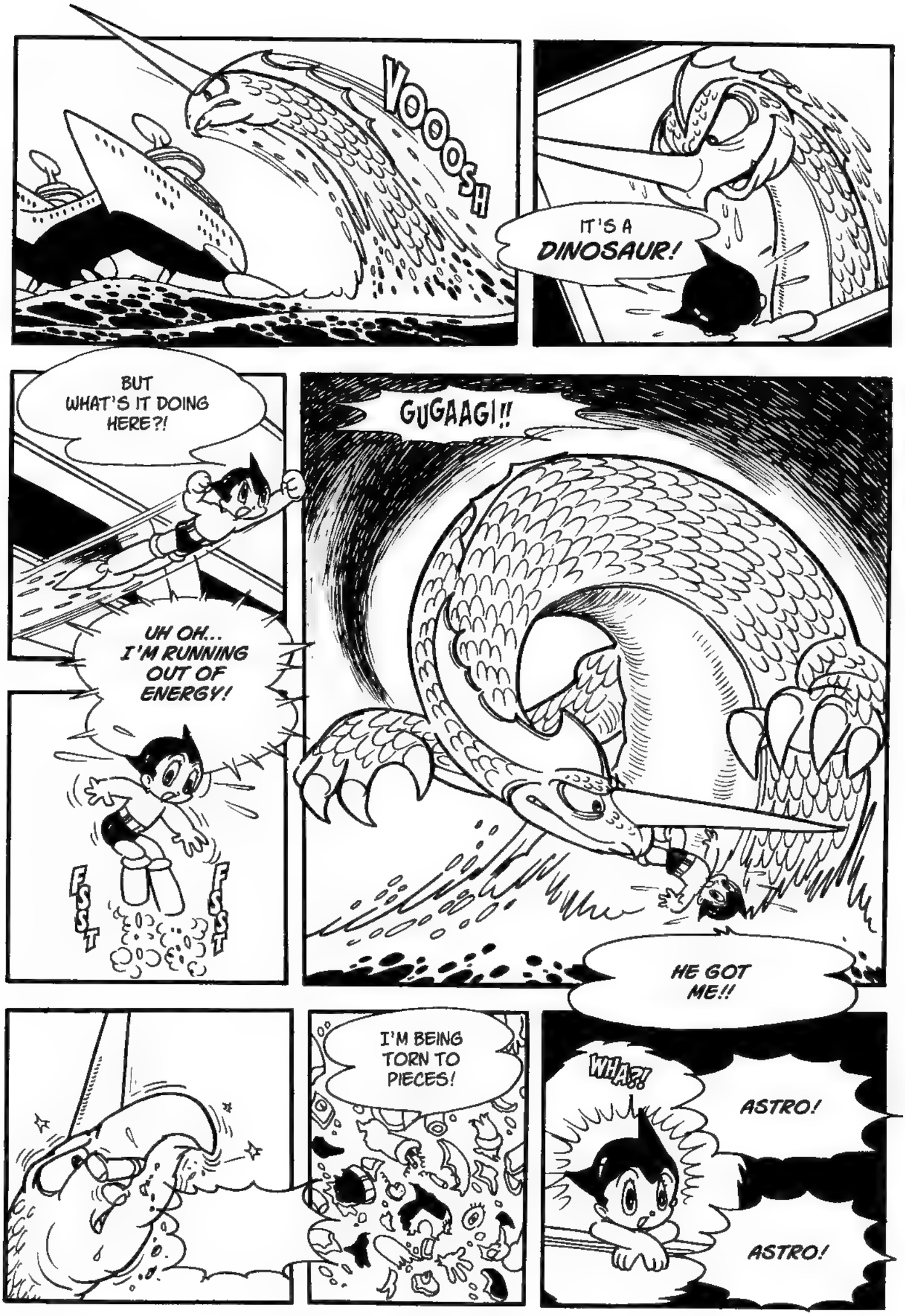
NOTHING
WORKS!

EEEK!
NOW I'M
MELT-
ING!

I'M
GONNA MELT
AWAY!!

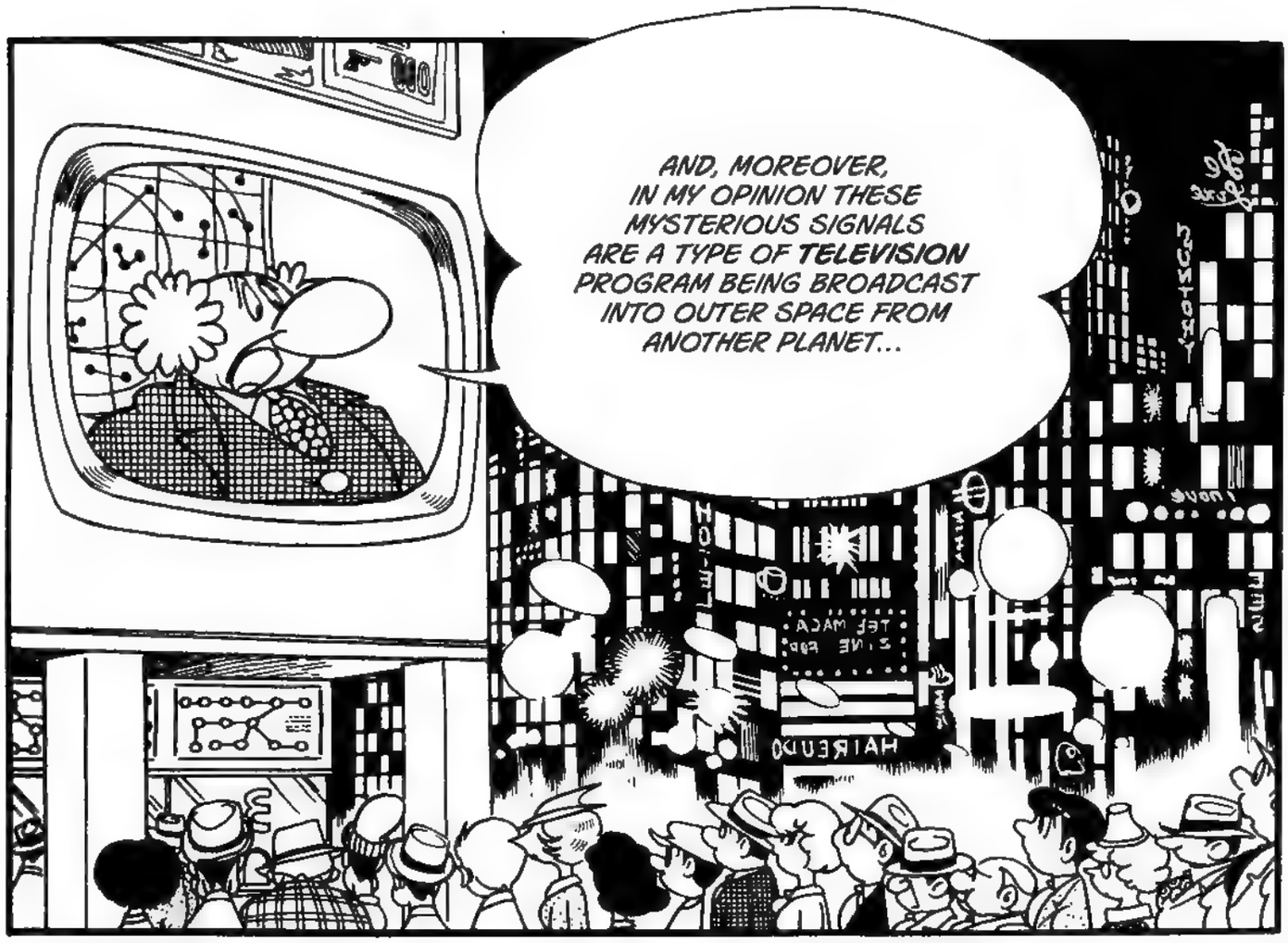
ASTRO!
HELP ME!
HELP!!

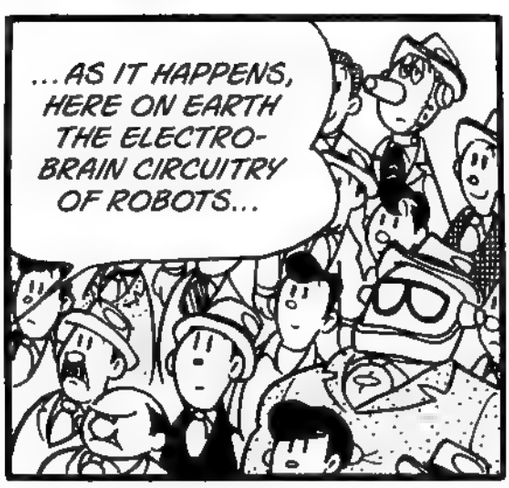
URAN!!
WHA?!!
WHAT'S WRONG, URAN? YOU'VE NEVER TALKED IN YOUR SLEEP BEFORE!
...WH... WHERE AM I?
OH, ASTRO... I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF... WE'RE ON A SHIP, AREN'T WE?
I'M GLAD IT WAS A DREAM! IT WAS REALLY REALLY SUPER SCARY...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DREAM, URAN!
WE'RE ROBOTS! WE DON'T DREAM IN OUR SLEEP!
GOSH, I WONDER IF URAN'S BREAKING DOWN? MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE THE PROFESSOR CHECK HER...
I'D LOVE TO HAVE A DREAM, TOO, THOUGH... EVEN A LITTLE ONE...
WHA?! WHAT'S THAT?!
OH MY GOSH...
SPOOSH

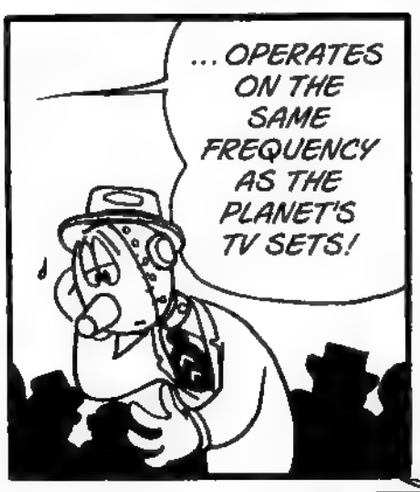

VOOOSH
IT'S A DINOSAUR!
BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?!
UH OH... I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY!
FSST
FSST
GUGAAG!!
HE GOT ME!!
I'M BEING TORN TO PIECES!
WHAP!
ASTRO!
ASTRO!

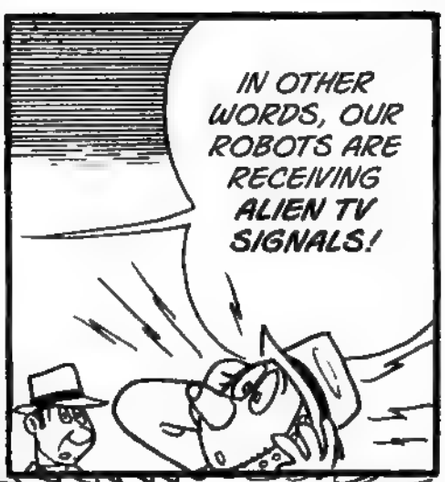
.....
ASTRO, IT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, TOO!
B-BUT THERE WAS A MONSTER THERE!!
THERE'S NOTHING THERE, ASTRO...
...YOU WERE DREAMING, TOO!
THIS IS WEIRD! I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS BEFORE!
'SCUSE ME! IS THERE A ROBOT HERE NAMED ASTRO?
THAT'S ME...
CALL FROM JAPAN... FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!
ASTRO?! ARE YOU OKAY? WE'VE HAD A DISASTER HERE! FIVE THOUSAND ROBOTS IN TOKYO HAVE ALL HAD THE SAME HALLUCINATION...
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?

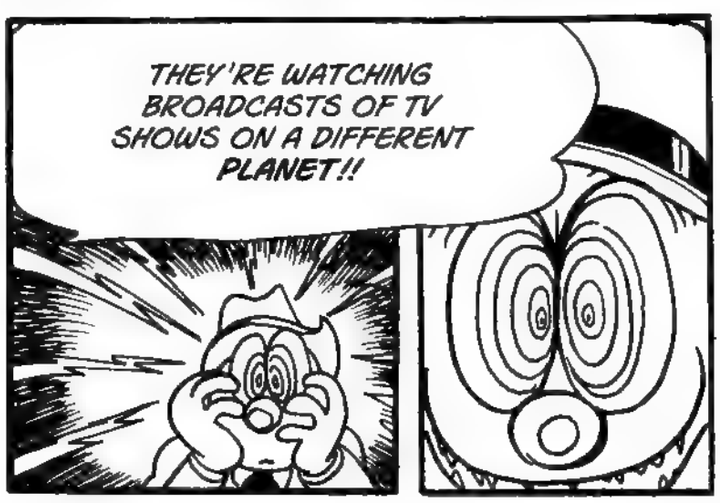
GOSH, PROFESSOR, I JUST SAW A WEIRD DREAM MYSELF... URAN DID, TOO!
YOU, TOO, EH? THIS A DISASTER!
...AND IT'S PROB'LY HAPPENING TO TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ROBOTS 'ROUND THE WORLD!
WHAT'S GOING ON, PROFES-SOR?
SOMEONE'S BROADCASTING POWERFUL SIGNALS THAT CREATE IMAGES IN ROBOT BRAINS!
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO'S DOING IT RIGHT NOW!
SIGNALS?
PROFES-SOR!
THE BROADCASTS AREN'T COMING FROM EARTH!
WELL? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THEY'RE FROM OUTER SPACE! THEY'RE BEING SENT FROM SOME DISTANT PLANET!

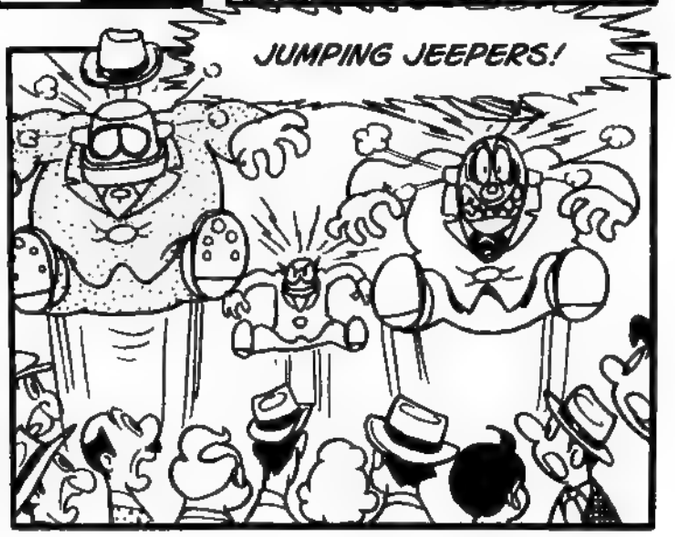

AND, MOREOVER, IN MY OPINION THESE MYSTERIOUS SIGNALS ARE A TYPE OF TELEVISION PROGRAM BEING BROADCAST INTO OUTER SPACE FROM ANOTHER PLANET...


...AS IT HAPPENS, HERE ON EARTH THE ELECTRO-BRAIN CIRCUITRY OF ROBOTS...


...OPERATES ON THE SAME FREQUENCY AS THE PLANET'S TV SETS!


IN OTHER WORDS, OUR ROBOTS ARE RECEIVING ALIEN TV SIGNALS!


THEY'RE WATCHING BROADCASTS OF TV SHOWS ON A DIFFERENT PLANET!!

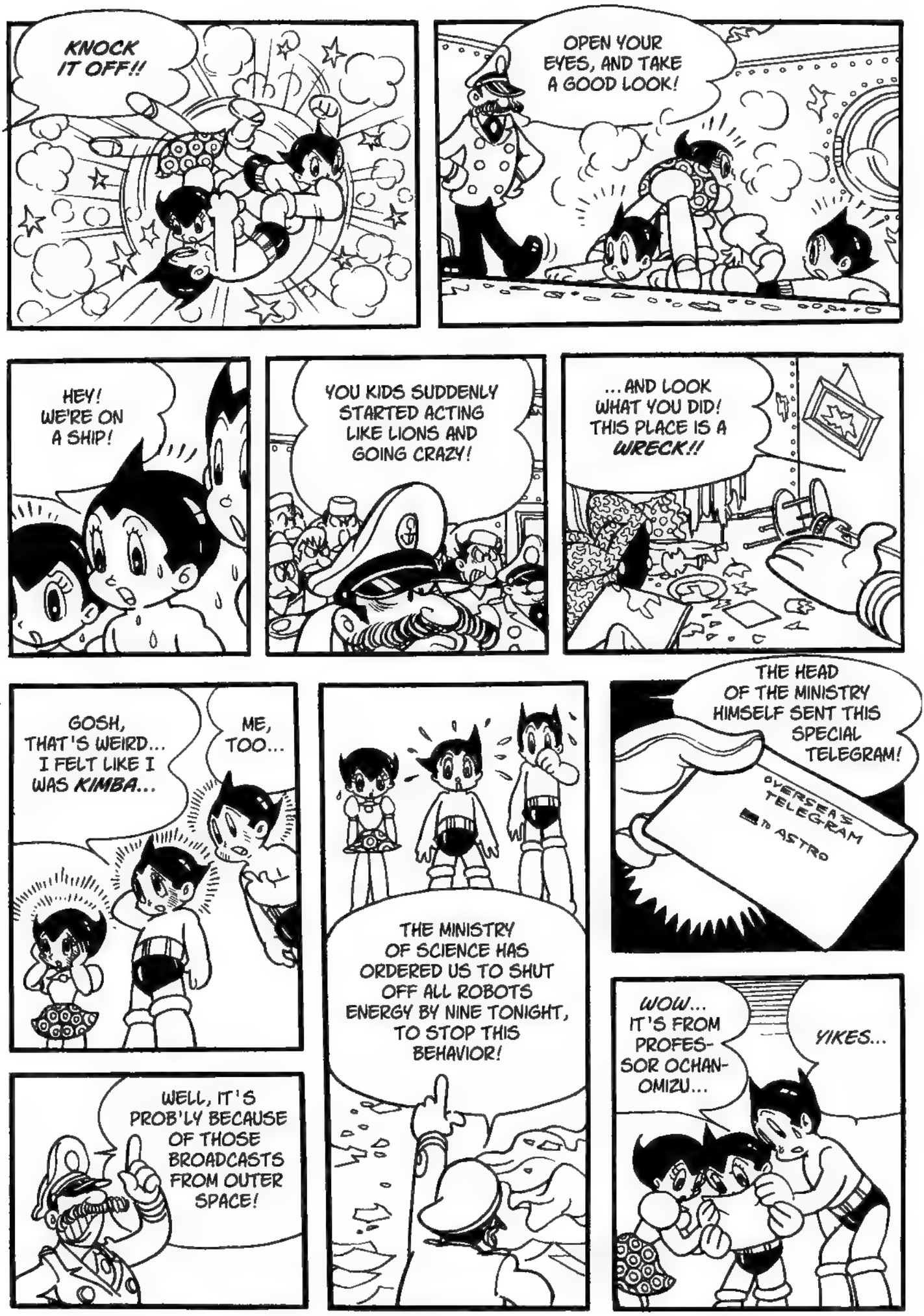

JUMPING JEEPERS!

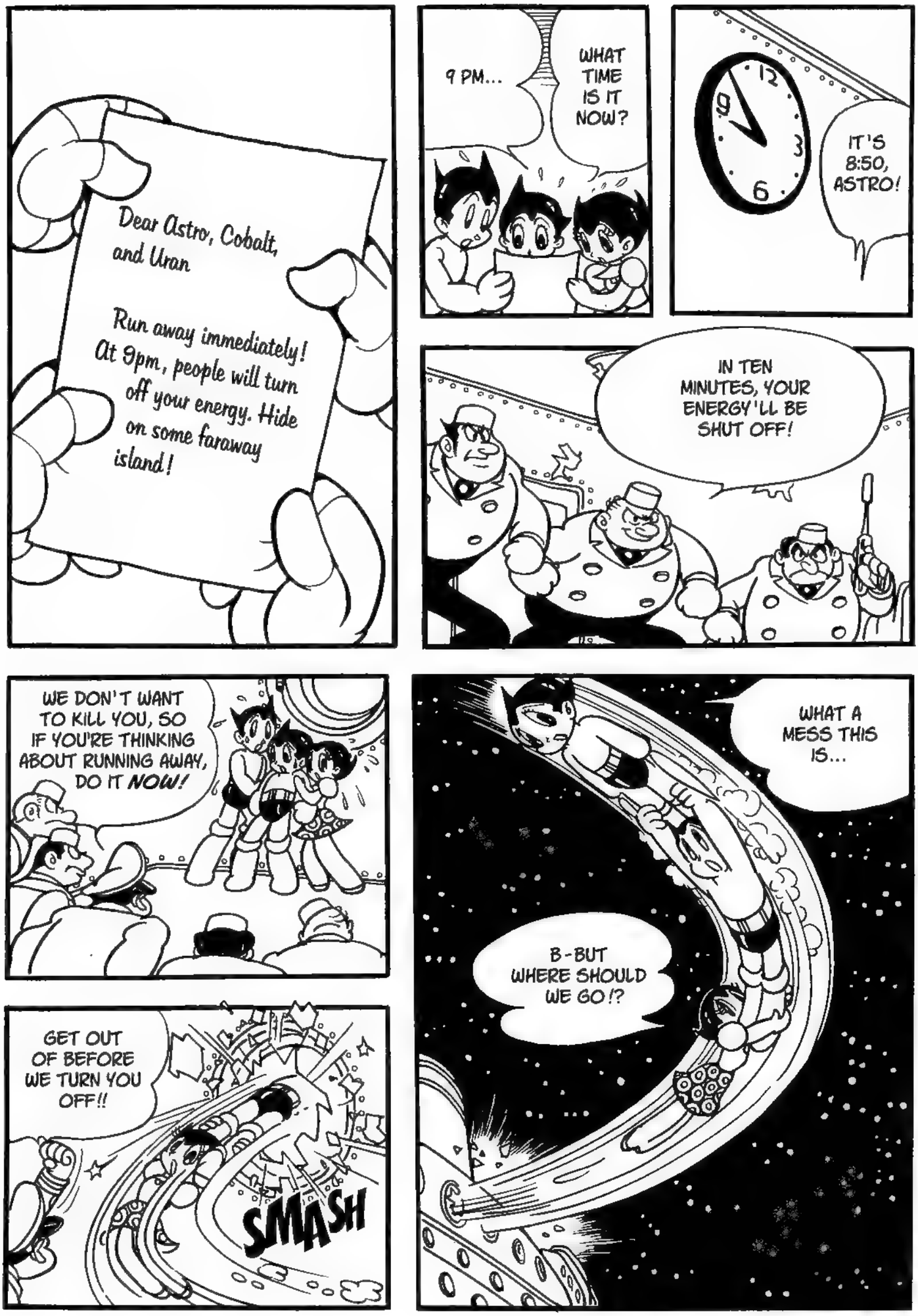
KABONK
KABASH
KATHUD
RUN FOR IT, EVERYBODY! THE ROBOTS'RE GOING NUTS!! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
GRAAAR!
MUST BE ANOTHER BROADCAST STARTING!
HELLO? HELLO? WHAT? ROBOTS'RE CHASING HUMANS AND INJURING THEM?!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY, RIGHT NOW!
WHEE WHEE WHEEEE

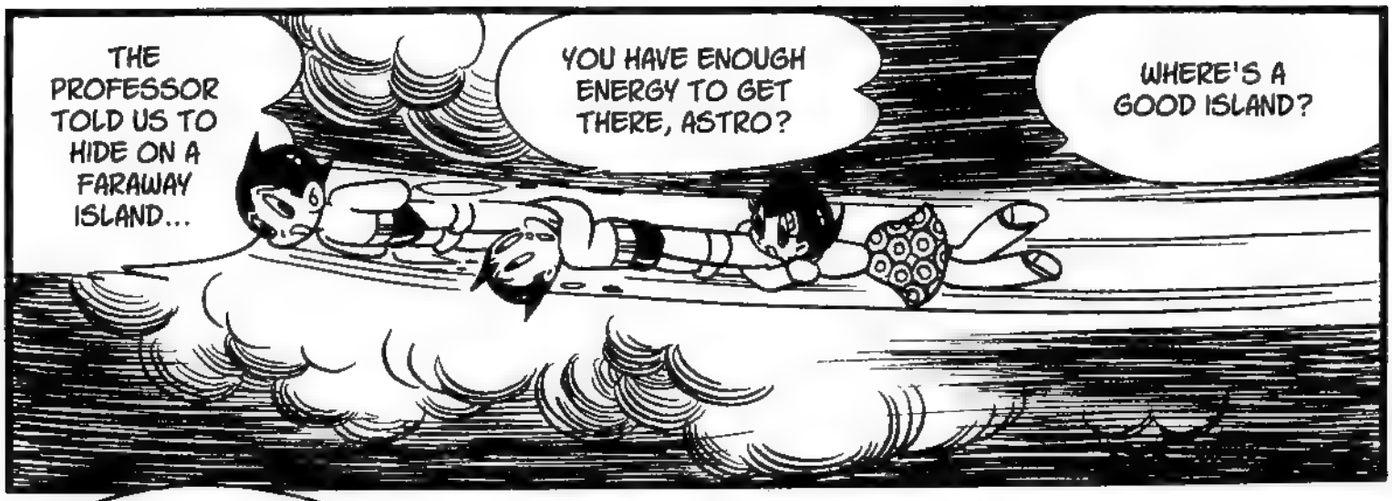
OUCH!
CRASH
BOOM
BANG!
BANG!
WHEE
ASTRO... YOU OKAY? URAN 'N COBALT OKAY, TOO?
WE'RE FINE NOW, PROFESSOR...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BROADCASTING ON LOTS OF DIFFERENT CHANNELS, SO DIFFERENT ROBOTS RECEIVE SIGNALS IN DIFFERENT WAYS...
PROFESSOR! WE HAD NO CHOICE. WE DESTROYED THE ROBOTS!
WHAT? HOW MANY?!
TWO HUNDRED IN THE CAPITAL ALONE...
YOU'RE KIDDING...
WE ARRESTED ONE ROBOT SURVIVOR...
LET ME SEE HIM...
SO YOU SAW SOME SORT OF VISION?!
YES... I'M SORRY, SIR...

I SUDDENLY FELT LIKE I WAS A *MASS-MURDERER...*
I JUST WANTED TO KILL LOTS OF HUMANS... IT WAS *TERRIFYING...*
THIS IS *INCREDIBLE!* THEY MUST'VE BEEN BROADCASTING A MURDER MYSTERY OR A GANG STORY!
PROFESSOR! IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, I SAY WE *SCRAP* THESE ROBOTS' *ELECTRO-BRAINS!*
ALL OF THEM?!
YES!! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS OTHERWISE!!
BUT THAT'S *CRAZY!*
YOU WANT ALL THE ROBOTS TO GO *BERSERK?!*
SOME ROBOTS PASSING BY HAVE STARTED *DANCING* IN THE STREETS, PROFESSOR! THEY'RE GOING *NUTS!*
EGADS... THEY MUST BE VIEWING SOME WEIRD *DANCE PROGRAM...*

ASTRO, IT'S ME! YOU GUYS OKAY?
THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL!
SMASH
CRASH!
...I SEE...
OKAY, INSPECTOR TAWASHI... I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
...AND... AND I'LL INCLUDE ASTRO, COBALT, AND URAN!!
FOR HOW LONG, SIR?
IF THE BROADCASTS DON'T STOP, IT'LL BE FOREVER!!
I'LL ORDER THAT ALL ROBOTS HAVE THEIR ENERGY SHUT OFF BY NINE TONIGHT!


KNOCK IT OFF!!
OPEN YOUR EYES, AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
HEY! WE'RE ON A SHIP!
YOU KIDS SUDDENLY STARTED ACTING LIKE LIONS AND GOING CRAZY!
...AND LOOK WHAT YOU DID! THIS PLACE IS A WRECK!!
GOSH, THAT'S WEIRD... I FELT LIKE I WAS KIMBA...
ME, TOO...
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE HAS ORDERED US TO SHUT OFF ALL ROBOTS ENERGY BY NINE TONIGHT, TO STOP THIS BEHAVIOR!
THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY HIMSELF SENT THIS SPECIAL TELEGRAM!
OVERSEAS TELEGRAM
TO ASTRO
WELL, IT'S PROB'LY BECAUSE OF THOSE BROADCASTS FROM OUTER SPACE!
WOW... IT'S FROM PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...
YIKES...

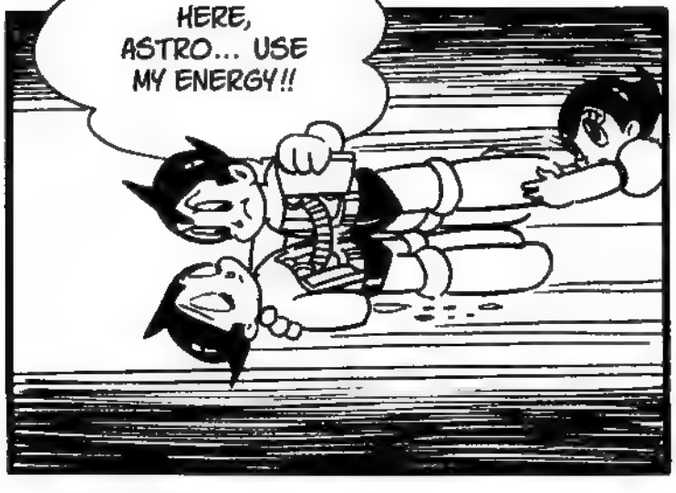

Dear Astro, Cobalt, and Uran
Run away immediately! At 9pm, people will turn off your energy. Hide on some faraway island!
9 PM...
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
IT'S 8:50, ASTRO!
IN TEN MINUTES, YOUR ENERGY'LL BE SHUT OFF!
WE DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU, SO IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT RUNNING AWAY, DO IT NOW!
GET OUT OF BEFORE WE TURN YOU OFF!!
SMASH
WHAT A MESS THIS IS...
B-BUT WHERE SHOULD WE GO!?

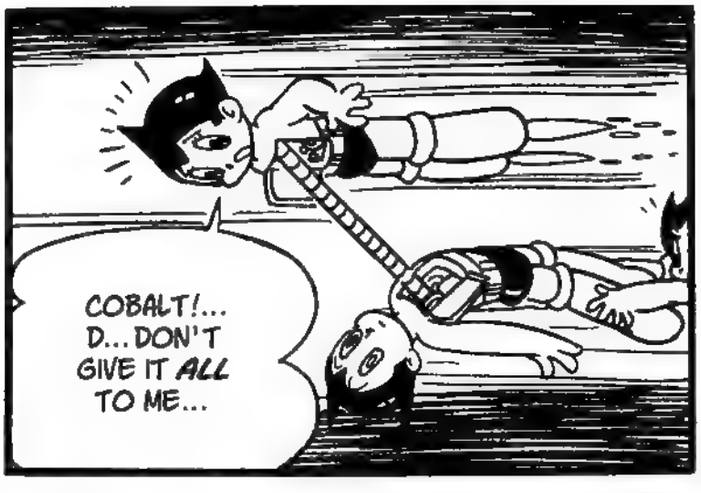

THE PROFESSOR TOLD US TO HIDE ON A FARAWAY ISLAND...
YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO GET THERE, ASTRO?
WHERE'S A GOOD ISLAND?

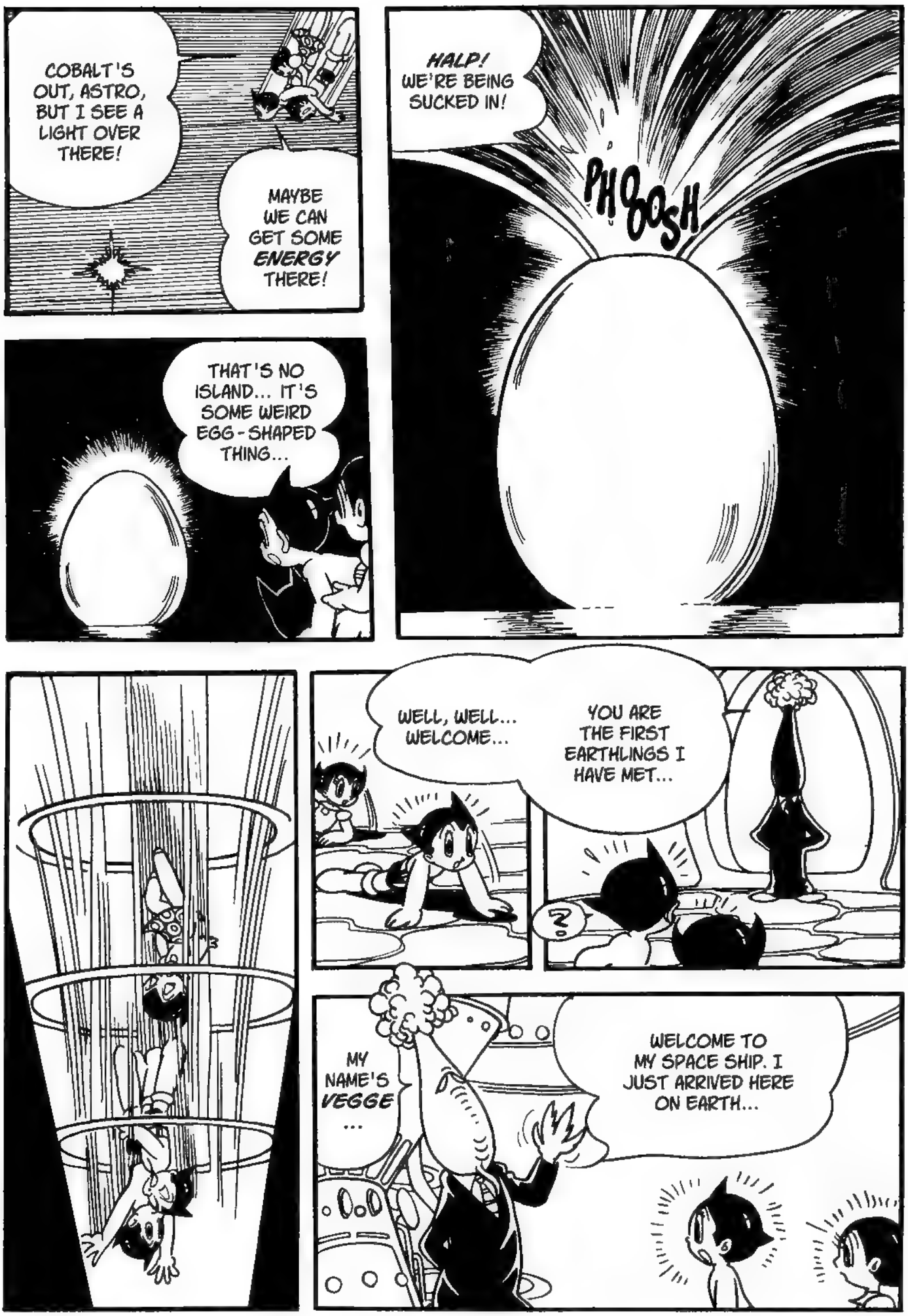
I'LL TURN ON MY SEARCH LIGHTS...

UH OH... I... I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY!
WE SPENT TOO MUCH FOOLING AROUND ON THE SHIP! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SPUT SPUTTER
SPUT
WE MIGHT FALL INTO THE OCEAN AND SINK TO THE BOTTOM!

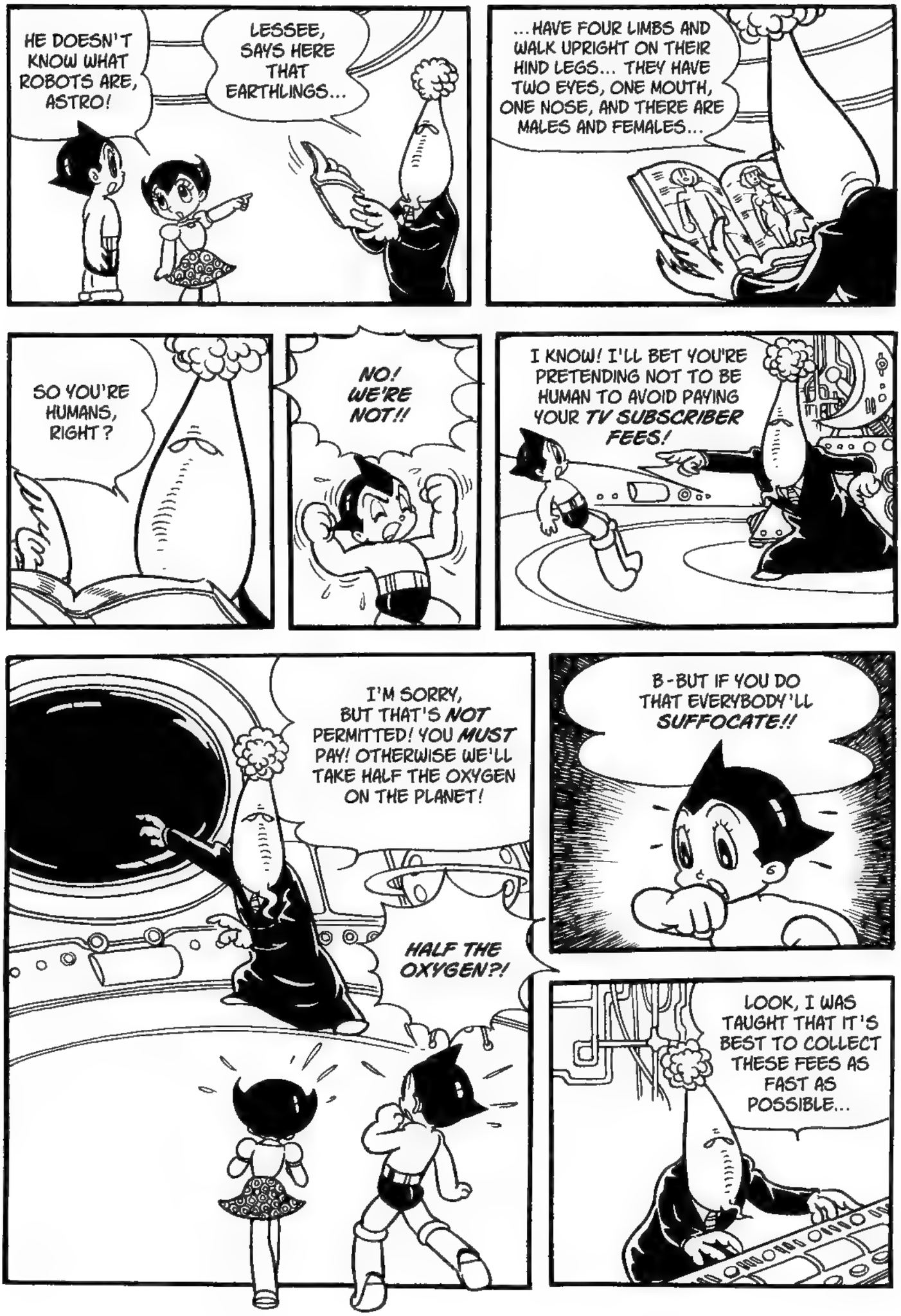
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCEPT OCEAN!!


HERE, ASTRO... USE MY ENERGY!!


COBALT!... D... DON'T GIVE IT ALL TO ME...

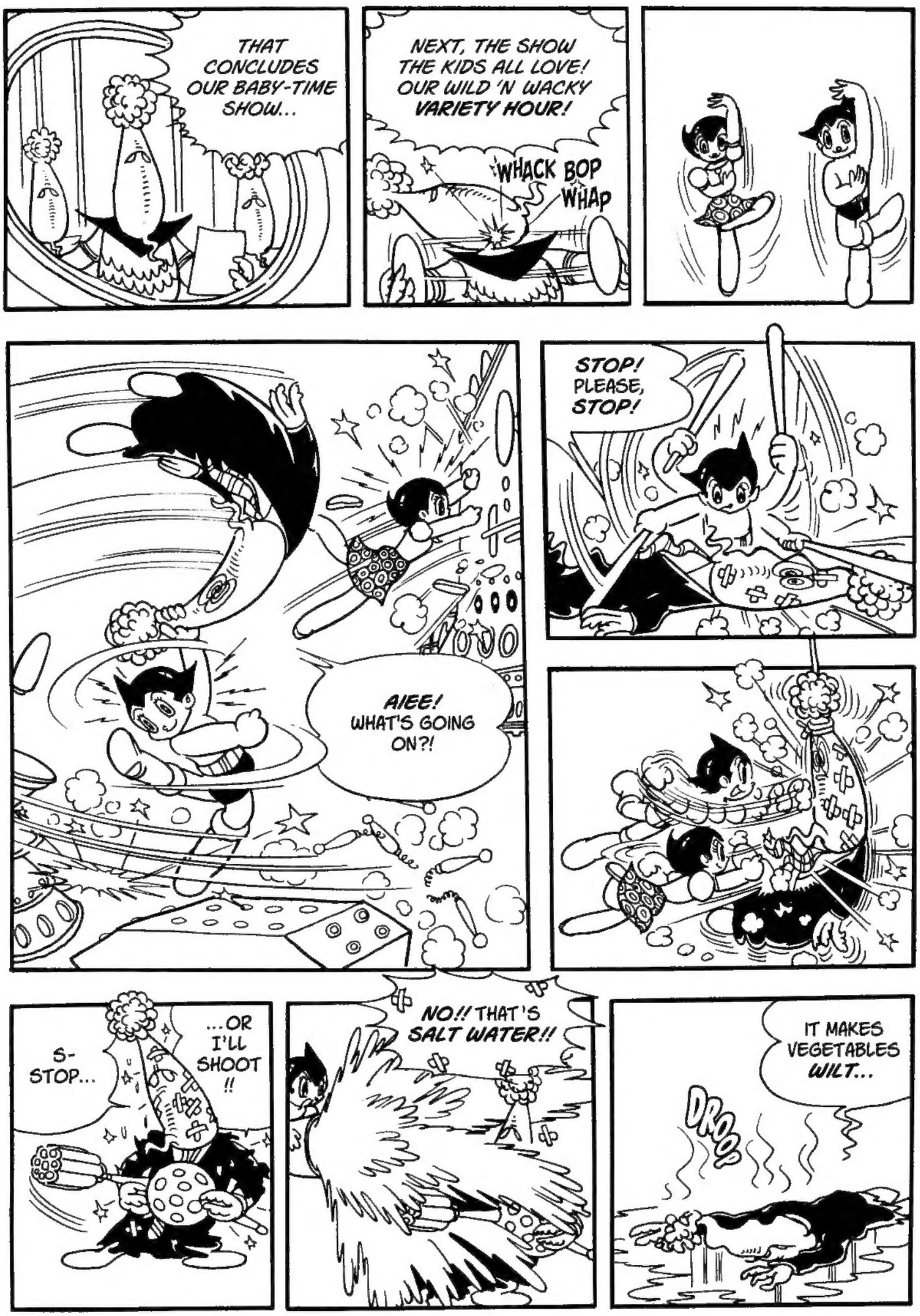

COBALT'S OUT, ASTRO, BUT I SEE A LIGHT OVER THERE!
MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME ENERGY THERE!
HALP! WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!
PHOOSH
THAT'S NO ISLAND... IT'S SOME WEIRD EGG-SHAPED THING...
WELL, WELL... WELCOME...
YOU ARE THE FIRST EARTHLINGS I HAVE MET...
?
MY NAME'S VEGGE ...
WELCOME TO MY SPACE SHIP. I JUST ARRIVED HERE ON EARTH...

YOU'RE AN ALIEN? BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE ON EARTH?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WHY, I'M HERE TO COLLECT THE FEES YOU OWE...
FEES WE OWE?
OF COURSE! YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING PROGRAMMING FROM MY PLANET! YOU OWE MONEY!
WE BROADCAST ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE...
SURELY YOU RECEIVE SOME OF OUR BROADCASTS HERE...
BROADCASTS?!
B-BUT I'VE NEVER WATCHED THEM...
OF COURSE YOU HAVE...
LOTS OF EARTHLINGS ENJOY THEM...
WHAT?!
YOU MEAN...
...OUR BRAINS...
SO THE DREAMS WE SAW WERE YOUR SHOWS?
SO ROBOT BRAINS PICKED UP YOUR BROADCASTS?
OF COURSE NOT... YOU'RE HUMANS, RIGHT?
NO! WE'RE ROBOTS! ROBOTS!!
WHAT'S A ROBOT?


HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ROBOTS ARE, ASTRO!
LESSEE, SAYS HERE THAT EARTHLINGS...
...HAVE FOUR LIMBS AND WALK UPRIGHT ON THEIR HIND LEGS... THEY HAVE TWO EYES, ONE MOUTH, ONE NOSE, AND THERE ARE MALES AND FEMALES...
SO YOU'RE HUMANS, RIGHT?
NO! WE'RE NOT!!
I KNOW! I'LL BET YOU'RE PRETENDING NOT TO BE HUMAN TO AVOID PAYING YOUR TV SUBSCRIBER FEES!
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT PERMITTED! YOU MUST PAY! OTHERWISE WE'LL TAKE HALF THE OXYGEN ON THE PLANET!
HALF THE OXYGEN?!
B-BUT IF YOU DO THAT EVERYBODY'LL SUFFOCATE!!
LOOK, I WAS TAUGHT THAT IT'S BEST TO COLLECT THESE FEES AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...

VOOOOOOSH
OH, NO! HE'S SUCKING IN THE AIR!!
ROAR
STOP!! STOP!!
I WON'T LET YOU STEAL OUR OXYGEN!
GOOD NIGHT....
GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP TIGHT...

THEY FELL ASLEEP!
WHETHER YOU TRY TO ESCAPE OR GO TO SLEEP... YOU'VE STILL GOTTA PAY...
IMAGINE, THOUGH, FALLING ASLEEP TO A SHOW FOR BABIES ...
ROAR
ROOOAAR
HUSH A BYE, LULLABYE, GO TO SLEEP YE LITTLE BABY...
MAMA...
SUCH A BABY...
SLEEP TIGHT....


THAT CONCLUDES OUR BABY-TIME SHOW...
NEXT, THE SHOW THE KIDS ALL LOVE! OUR WILD 'N WACKY VARIETY HOUR!
WHACK BOP WHAP
STOP! PLEASE, STOP!
AIEE! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
S-STOP...
...OR I'LL SHOOT !!
NO!! THAT'S SALT WATER!!
IT MAKES VEGETABLES WILT...
DROOP

F-FEE COLLECTOR VEGGE, TO BASE....
THE EARTHLINGS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE BERSERK FROM OUR BROADCASTS! BETTER STOP BROADCASTING ANY PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BAD INFLUENCE ON YOUTH...
OUCH! STOP ALL BROADCASTS! I'M BEING MURDERED!
WHA?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
GOSH, WHAT WAS I DOING?
DON'T WORRY... WE'LL NEVER BROADCAST TO YOUR PLANET AGAIN...
ASTRO TO PROFESSOR! REST ASSURED! EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW! YOU CAN LET THE ROBOTS HAVE THEIR ENERGY AGAIN!
YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO PAY ANYTHING! I'M GOING HOME!

THE END

Osamu Tezuka was born in the city of Toyonaka, in Osaka, Japan, on November 3, 1928, and raised in Takarazuka, in Hyogo prefecture. He graduated from the Medical Department of Osaka University and was later awarded a Doctorate of Medicine.

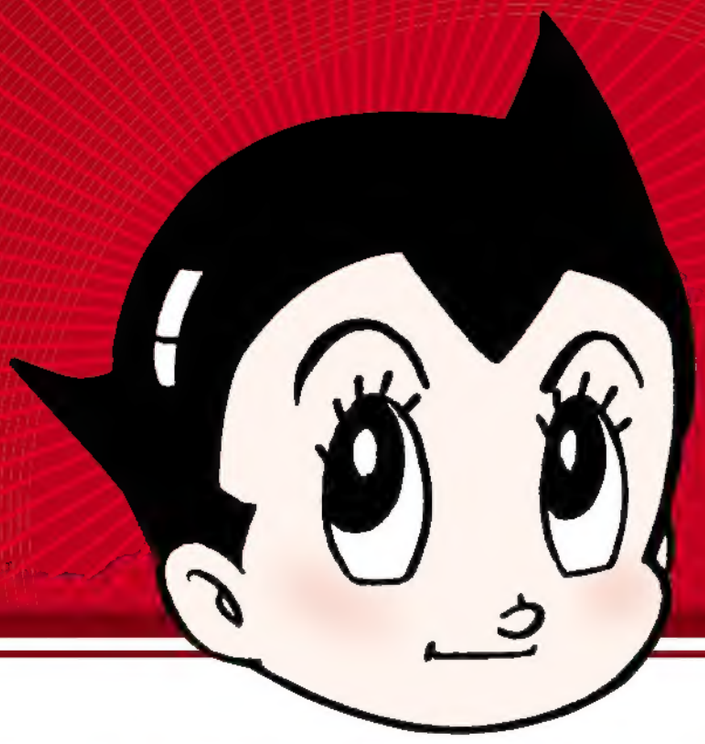
In 1946 Tezuka made his debut as a manga artist with the work *Ma-chan's Diary*, and in 1947 he had his first big hit with *New Treasure Island*. In over forty years as a cartoonist, Tezuka produced in excess of an astounding 150,000 pages of manga, including the creation of *Metropolis*, *Mighty Atom* (a.k.a. *Astro Boy*), *Jungle Emperor* (a.k.a. *Kimba the White Lion*), *Black Jack*, *Phoenix*, *Buddha*, and many more.

Tezuka's fascination with Disney cartoons led him to begin his own animation studio, creating the first serialized Japanese cartoon series, which was later exported to America as *Astro Boy* in 1963. Tezuka Productions went on to create animated versions of *Kimba the White Lion* (*Jungle Emperor*) and *Phoenix*, among others.

He received numerous awards during his life, including the Bungei Shunju Manga Award, the Kodansha Manga Award, the Shogakukan Manga Award, and the Japan Cartoonists' Association Special Award for Excellence. He also served a variety of organizations. He was a director of the Japan Cartoonists' Association, the chairman of the Japan Animation Association, and a member of the Manga Group, Japan Pen Club, and the Japan SF Authors' Club, among others. Tezuka became Japan's "comics ambassador," taking Japan's comics culture to the world. In 1980, he toured and lectured in America, including a speech at the United Nations.

Regarded as a national treasure, Osamu Tezuka died on February 9, 1989 at the age of 60. In April 1994, the Osamu Tezuka Manga Museum opened in the city of Takarazuka, where he was raised. His creations remain hugely popular in Japan and are printed in many languages throughout the world, where he is acclaimed as one of the true giants of comics and animation, his work as vital and influential today as it was half a century ago.

"Comics are an international language," Tezuka said. "They can cross boundaries and generations. Comics are a bridge between all cultures."



Dark Horse Comics brings the original *Astro Boy* to America for the first time in an English-language edition!

With the rapidly expanding explosion of manga and anime, the vast creative and spiritual influence of the late, great Osamu Tezuka is being recognized worldwide, the skill, depth, and humanity of his storytelling placing him among the giants of graphic fiction. *Astro Boy* is the fantasy/adventure archetype for the 21st century, an action-packed roller-coaster ride for all ages, imbued with humor, warmth, and wry commentary on life in the technological age. In this volume: Astro battles robot impostors who threaten the existence of the human race; a murder leaves a clue to unravel a deadly conspiracy for world domination; Astro uncovers a meteorite that may hold the secret to eternal life; and alien broadcasts cause Earth's robots to go wild!

Translation by Frederik L. Schodt, author of *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics* and translator of *Barefoot Gen*.

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